

Liner



Fibreglass Care & Maintenance Guide

For Recreational Vehicles

Recreational Vehicle Fibreglass

Your RV's fibreglass composite sandwich panel's outermost exterior surface layer consists of a high-quality gelcoat. Gelcoat comes in various colours, is very durable and provides a shiny surface that is easy to clean and will not rust, rot, or corrode.

All gelcoat surfaces can eventually become prone to dulling or fading with sufficient exposure to sunlight, heat, and moist air, which combine to oxidise the gelcoat surface.

Proper care and maintenance can help maintain the appearance and durability of your gelcoat surfaces. The frequency and level of maintenance will vary depending on exposure to elements and how dark the gelcoat colour is.

We've compiled our top tips for you to safely care, maintain and enjoy your RV for many years to come.

Liner's Top Tips

Storage

Storage conditions play a considerable role in the lifespan and long-term appearance of gelcoat surfaces.

- Indoor storage is best.
- If stored outdoors, try to find a place out of direct sunlight and away from trees and bird droppings. To ensure all sides of the RV receive the same level of exposure to sunlight, the RV should be moved frequently.
- If using a protective cover, avoid any that trap moisture. Prolonged exposure to trapped water can cause blushing, especially in darker colours. Your RV should be cleaned before installing a cover as dust, dirt, and other tiny particles can act as abrasives and scratch the gelcoat surface. Various covers are available at RV accessory stores.

Care & Maintenance

The more you care for your RV, the easier the detailing process.

- It is essential to wash your RV often and polish and wax it periodically, as doing so will ensure that it will remain like new for many years.
- Frequent washing is a vital step in keeping your gelcoat finish in premium condition.
- Aside from your annual professional RV service, it is important to frequently inspect your vehicle often to help keep it in top condition.
- Maintenance is regularly removing contaminants before they have a chance to bond to the gelcoat surface or etch it.
- Safely removing contaminants without stripping your wax protection will leave your RV looking like it has just been detailed every day.
- Follow our 3-Step Fibreglass Gelcoat Surface Care Guide for the best results.
- Failure to perform simple maintenance tasks may result in surface deterioration over time.

Repairs

When your RV is subjected to rough terrain and long trips there is bound to be wear and tear to the body's exterior, but the sooner you assess and address the damage the better.

- Scratches are the most common damage on RVs and can be removed using a polish or cutting compound, followed by wax.
- If the surface has been allowed to weather badly, and cleaning and polishing do not restore the finish, you may need to use an oxidation remover or cutting compound to remove scratches, stains, or a severely weathered surface. This can be done by hand or mechanically, such as an electrical or pneumatic buffer. After the scratched, stained, or weathered surface has been removed, it should be polished and waxed to enhance the gloss and colour while providing a seal to prevent future staining or new soil accumulation.
- Significant repairs should be referred to your local professional.

3 Step Fibreglass Gelcoat Surface Care Guide



Step 1: Wash

Washing removes loose contaminants from the surface that if not removed could eventually bond to or etch the surface.

- Wash the exterior of your RV at least once a month using a mild liquid detergent.

Aim to find a detergent product designed for gelcoat surfaces in RV and marine applications.

- A pH-neutral wash is neither acidic nor alkaline and has a pH of 7.0, almost identical to pure water. These products have a gentle cleaning action and don't use harsh chemicals which may remove your wax protection and cause damage and premature ageing of your RV.
- Avoid products that are abrasive, caustic (high pH or alkaline) or contain ammonia. Caustic cleaners can cause discolouration, loss of gloss and eventually cracking and reduced UV resistance with repeated use.
- Avoid dishwashing detergents or other household cleaners, as these will strip off your wax protection.
- Avoid dirty or gritty brushes.
- Remove dead bugs, bird droppings, sap, and tar as quickly as possible to avoid staining. If using a bug and tar remover, test a small inconspicuous area to be sure it is safe for use on gelcoat surfaces, and follow the directions on the package.



Step 2: Clean

While washing removes loose contaminants from the gelcoat surface, cleaning is intended to sharpen the colour and clarity, and remove bonded surface contamination and defects. *Surface defects can be divided into above-surface contaminants and below-surface defects:*

- Above-surface contaminants include tree sap, environmental fallout, and bugs
- Below-surface defects include scratches, swirls, and oxidation
- Clean the surface with a colour restorer or oxidation remover that safely removes oxidation, stain and blemishes.



Step 3: Polish & Protect

Now that the gelcoat surface is smooth and free of defects, the only way to keep your gelcoat finish looking great for long periods is to polish and apply a protective coating to preserve the brilliant high gloss surface.

- A high quality polish restores a brilliant high gloss finish by conditioning the gelcoat and restoring its natural oils.
- Protection formulas provide a durable protective layer that seals in the deep shine created when polished and keeps environmental elements from coming in direct contact with the surface.
- Depending upon the frequency of exposure to the elements and colour, polishing & waxing the gelcoat surfaces must be completed at a minimum of every 6 months or 3 months or less for darker colours.

Product Guide

		New or Like New Condition	Average Condition	Neglected Condition
	Step 1: Wash	Soft Wash Gel or Gel Wash	Soft Wash Gel or Gel Wash	Soft Wash Gel or Gel Wash
	Step 2: Clean	Not Required	Colour Restorer	Oxidation Remover
	Step 3: Polish & Protect	Cleaner Wax	High Gloss Polish Quick Wax - Spray	High Gloss Polish Quick Wax - Spray



Meguiar's Soft Wash Gel

Super rich, super thick and super concentrated, this remarkable formula blends rich conditioners with optical brighteners to enhance the brilliance and gloss of your paint finish. Detergent-free and pH balanced, it won't strip off your wax protection.



Meguiar's Gel Wash

Safely and quickly removes scum, dirt, salt spray, grime, bird droppings, and other fresh environmental contaminants while boosting gloss without stripping wax protection. Formula is super thick, super rich, and super concentrated and is PH balanced. Special formula blends rich conditioners with optical brighteners to enhance the brilliance and gloss of your gel coat surface.



Meguiar's Cleaner Wax

Restores colour and gloss, it's non-abrasive formula that cleans, polishes and protects all fiberglass gel coat marine or caravan/RV surfaces in one easy step. Removes light oxidation and haze, minor scratches and swirls while providing long-lasting protection against salt air, corrosion and the sun's ultraviolet rays.



Meguiar's Colour Restorer

Safely removes light oxidation, stains, and blemishes from fiberglass gel coat surfaces. Revives colour and enhances gloss to reveal original vibrant appearance. Diminishing abrasives and mild cleaning agents work gently to revive and restore gel coats and fiberglass to their original lustre and is formulated specifically for removing light defects from all gel coat and fiberglass surfaces.

Liner

40 Belfast St
Broadmeadows VIC 3047 Australia
+61 3 9302 2454 | www.linersupply.com.au