

Liner

Fibreglass Care & Maintenance Guide

For Recreational Vehicles



Understanding your RV's Fibreglass Finish



Your RV's fibreglass composite panels are finished with a **high-quality gelcoat**. Gelcoat is available in a range of colours and is designed to be:

- ✓ EASY TO CLEAN
- ✓ DURABLE
- ✓ LONG-LASTING
- ✓ SMOOTH
- ✓ GLOSSY
- ✓ RESISTANT TO RUST, ROT AND CORROSION

Like all exterior finishes, gelcoat is exposed to the elements. Over time, **sunlight, heat, and moist air** can cause the surface to oxidise, leading to fading and dullness, especially on darker colours.

With the right care, however, gelcoat can **retain its shine and protective qualities** for many years. Maintenance requirements will vary depending on storage conditions, climate, and how often your RV is used.

This guide outlines simple, proven steps to help you protect your investment and **keep your RV looking its best**, on and off the road.

Caring for your RV's Fibreglass Gelcoat

Following a **consistent care routine** helps to prevent long-term damage and makes ongoing maintenance easier.



STEP 1: Wash

Removes surface dirt and loose contaminants that could bond to or etch the gelcoat surface.

Best practice:

- Wash your RV's exterior at least once a month, and more often if it's exposed to coastal air, dust, sap, or bird droppings
- Use a suggested gel wash (see the Surface Care Chart) formulated for RV or marine applications
- Choose a pH-neutral product (around pH 7.0) to avoid stripping protective coatings
- Remove bugs, sap, tar, and bird droppings as soon as possible to prevent staining
- Always test bug or tar removers on a small, hidden area before use

Avoid:

- Abrasive, caustic (high pH or alkaline), and ammonia-based products
- Dishwashing liquid or household detergents
- Dirty, gritty, or stiff brushes



STEP 2: Clean

Sharpens colour, restores clarity, and addresses surface imperfections.

Washing removes loose contaminants, but it won't address bonded surface contaminants and defects. This is where cleaning comes in.

- **Above-surface contaminants:** Tree sap, environmental fallout, bugs
- **Below-surface contaminants:** Scratches, swirls, oxidation

Best practice:

- Use a colour restorer or oxidation remover appropriate for your gelcoat's condition to remove oxidation, stains, and blemishes



STEP 3: Polish & Protect

Enhances gloss and shields the surface.

Once the surface is clean and smooth, maintain your RV's shine with polishing and protection.

- **Polishing:** Conditions the gelcoat and restores its natural oils
- **Protective coatings:** Seal the surface, reducing direct exposure to UV, moisture, and contaminants

Best practice:

- Polish and wax the gelcoat at least once every six months
- For darker colours or RVs stored outside, polish and wax at least once every three months

Surface Care Chart



	 STEP 1: Wash	 STEP 2: Clean	 STEP 3: Polish & Protect
NEW OR LIKE NEW CONDITION Surface has good gloss, with no swirls or oxidation	*M43 Boat Wash	Not Required	*M50 Cleaner Wax
AVERAGE CONDITION Surface has light scratches and oxidation	*M43 Boat Wash	*M49 Oxidation Remover	*M45 High Gloss Polish AND *M59 Quick Wax Spray
NEGLECTED CONDITION Surface has heavy scratches and oxidation	*M43 Boat Wash	*M49 Oxidation Remover	*M45 High Gloss Polish AND *M56 Pure Wax Liquid

* See recommended product list on page 6 for further details.

Cleaning & Storage Tips



Storage

Storage conditions significantly impact the lifespan and appearance of gelcoat surfaces.

We recommend storing indoors wherever possible. However, if storing outdoors:

- Keep away from direct sunlight, trees, and bird activity
- Move frequently to minimise excessive sun exposure to one area
- Use breathable covers only, ensuring they don't trap any moisture

Always clean and dry your RV before fitting a cover, as dirt trapped beneath it can act as an abrasive, scratching the gelcoat.



Care & Maintenance

Consistent maintenance reduces effort and prevents costly detailing work.

- Wash regularly
- Polish and wax periodically
- Address oxidation or weathering early using appropriate products
- Follow cleaning with polishing and protection to seal the surface

If the surface is badly weathered, use an oxidation remover or cutting compound to address scratches and stains. Follow with polish and wax as with regular care and maintenance.

Additional tips:

- Before drying, apply Quik Wax (see recommended products) onto the surface while it's still wet for extra protection
- Use high-quality microfibre cloths to dry gelcoat surfaces



Repairs

Travelling long distances, while making for great memories, can also lead to wear and tear.

The sooner you address damage, the easier it will be to restore the surface.

- Improve light scratches with a suitable polish or compound, followed by protection
- Deep scratches or structural damage should be addressed by a professional



Important Note on Aftermarket Coatings

Some aftermarket coatings claim to eliminate the need for waxing and polishing. While these products may offer benefits, they don't replace regular inspection and maintenance.

All gelcoat surfaces should be monitored for:

- Loss of gloss
- Discolouration
- Scratches
- Swirl marks
- Signs of oxidation

If deterioration is present, treat the surface in line with this guide.

Recommended Products



FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
AND PRICING ON THE FULL
RV & MARINE RANGE
GO TO [MEGUIARS.COM.AU](https://meguiars.com.au)
OR CALL **1800 347 570**

We recommend Meguiar's professional-grade products, formulated specifically for fibreglass gelcoat surfaces. These products are designed to **clean effectively, restore appearance, and provide long-lasting protection** under Australian conditions.



Washing



M4364 Marine/RV Boat Wash

Specifically formulated for marine, RV and caravan gelcoat surfaces. This powerful, effective, non-abrasive wash will safely and quickly remove scum, grime and dirt.



Restoration & Preparation



M4916 Oxidation Remover

Designed for moderate oxidation, scratches, and staining on older gelcoat surfaces.



Polishing & Protection



M5016 Cleaner Wax

A convenient all-in-one option that cleans, polishes, and protects all fibreglass gelcoat RV surfaces.



M4516 High Gloss Polish

Feeds and nourishes gelcoat to restore shine, especially for dark colours.



M5916 Quik Wax Spray

A fast way to top up gloss and protection between major detailing sessions. (Note: Only use wax after the surface has been cleaned and restored to 'like new' or 'average finish').



M5616 Pure Wax Liquid

Provides durable, high-gloss protection using Brazilian Carnauba wax, ideal for long-term protection.

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