

# Care and Maintenance Instructions

## for Alexseal<sup>®</sup> Premium Topcoat 501

---

- 1. Introduction**

With proper care and maintenance, Alexseal<sup>®</sup> Premium Topcoat 501 will withstand the harsh marine environment. After application, it is important to maintain a yacht's exterior surface by keeping it clean and protecting it. Follow these care and maintenance recommendations thoroughly for best results.
- 2. Washing**

Rinse down the paint surface with clean fresh water every time the boat is used to remove salt spray and dirt. A water softener may be needed to overcome hard water spots. A buildup of hard water spotting can be confused with premature dulling of paint. A reverse osmosis water supply may also be used to minimize water spotting.

The paint surface should be washed once a week using a mild detergent with a neutral PH formulated specifically for paint finishes. Some detergents will strip waxes & protective sealants off the surface. These should be avoided. Check the detergent label.

Do not use abrasive brushes, pads or cleaning agents on paint. These will scratch and dull the finish. Use only soft clean wash mitts and brushes that are specifically designed for washing painted surfaces.

Dry the surface to prevent water spots. Wherever possible, dry the surface with a quality towel, chamois and / or a wiping blade. This will eliminate water spots.
- 3. Sealing and Protecting**

It is acceptable to apply a high quality wax or polymer sealer designed for surfaces painted with polyurethane. This will act as a sacrificial coating that will protect the paint and can dramatically improve the coatings life expectancy.
- 4. Important Notes**

Many companies manufacture products for sealing and protecting painted surfaces. Only use products that are specifically designed for surfaces painted with polyurethane. These products should not contain abrasives or caustic chemicals.
- 5. Removing Stains**

Remove stains from a polyurethane finish as soon as possible. Some stains can actually etch the surface of the paint and embed into the coating. If a stain cannot be removed with a mild detergent during the washing process, solvents may be used to loosen the stain. Always start with mild solvents such as Mineral Spirits, VM & P Naphtha or Denatured Alcohol. Harsher solvents such as Acetone and Lacquer Thinner should only be used as a last resort. After removing the stain with solvent, wash the area with a mild detergent and clean water to remove all solvent residues.
- 6. Removing Salt Residue**

Remove dried salt residue by washing the surface with a warm water and white vinegar solution. Dilute the white vinegar 1 : 1 with warm water and wash the surface. When finished, rewash the surface with a mild detergent and clean water.
- 7. Detailing**

Many surfaces on a boat will require minor detailing over time. This might include removing mild overspray and tape lines from repainted panels or polishing an aged surface to temporarily restore the luster. When such areas need detailing as part of the initial application of the coating or periodically over time to repair fine scratches, use a protective wax or polymer sealer to help maintain the gloss in detailed areas. Detailing must be done by an experienced applicator either by hand, or slow speed polishing machine, using an applicator pad recommended by the product's manufacturer.

**Professional Use Only**

**Page 1 of 2**

The information contained in this data sheet is based on our level of research and development. Revisal by the user with regard to the intended aim is necessary due to the diverse processing and application possibilities. revision January 2008

# Care and Maintenance Instructions

## for Alexseal<sup>®</sup> Premium Topcoat 501

---

### 8. Buffing

Occasionally light buffing may be needed to restore the finish. Buffing must be done by an experienced applicator either by hand or slow speed buffing machine using a compound / polish and a pad recommended by the product's manufacturer. Use a protective wax or polymer sealer to help maintain the gloss in the buffed areas. Avoid aggressive buffing which could remove too much coating from the surface and reduce the durability of the paint.

### 9. Spot Repairs

Spot repairs must be done by an experienced applicator using a blend area and reducer fog technique. A spot repair is used to repair a small area versus repainting the entire surface. A 1500 grit blending area will reduce a halo appearance where the new coating overlaps the old coating. Use the topcoat reducer to spray a light mist or fog on this overspray edge to reduce the texture and aid in blending. Machine buff the blended area to restore the gloss. Any buffing must be done by an experienced applicator by hand or slow speed buffing machine using compound / polish and a pad recommended by the product's manufacturer. Applying a protective wax or polymer sealer in this area will help maintain gloss and reduce the visibility of the repair.

Note: Some colors including reds, grays and metallic are not repairable. To avoid color change, testing on a small inconspicuous area is recommended.

### 10. Recommended Products

Listed below are some products designed for cleaning and maintaining painted finishes. Other products may be suitable. Read all labels before using.

#### Washing:

3M Multi-Purpose Boat Soap  
Boat Life Boat Soap  
Meguiar's Flagship Premium Marine Wash

Aquatech 501 Boat Wash Concentrate  
Liquid Glass<sup>®</sup> Wash Concentrate  
Sudbury Boat Zoap

#### Sealing and Protection:

Use a UV stable polymer sealer or a non-abrasive wax which contains polymers designed for paint.

3M Protective Liquid Wax (9026 / 9027)  
Liquid Glass<sup>®</sup> Polish/Finish

Aquatech 201 Premier Polish  
Meguiar's Flagship Premium Marine Wax

#### Buffing:

3M Imperial Compound and Finishing Material (6044 / 6045)  
by machine with foam pad or yellow bonnet.

3M Imperial Micro-Finishing Compound (6011 / 6021)  
by machine with foam pad or yellow bonnet.

#### Polishing after Buffing:

3M Imperial Machine Glaze (5991 / 6001)  
by machine or 3M Imperial Microfinishing Glaze (5992) by hand

3M Perfect-It III – Machine Glaze (5937 / 5938)  
by machine or 3M Perfect-It III – Finishing Glaze (5941 / 5943) by hand

3M Finesse-It II – Finishing Material (5928 / 5929)  
by hand or machine and foam pad

Contact a representative of Alexseal Yacht Coatings for further information.

**Professional Use Only**

**Page 2 of 2**

The information contained in this data sheet is based on our level of research and development. Revisal by the user with regard to the intended aim is necessary due to the diverse processing and application possibilities. revision January 2008