

RECREATIONAL VEHICLE CARE AND MAINTENANCE

FORM 6998

GENERAL

The exterior surface of composite exterior is a high quality gelcoat. Gelcoat is available in many colors and is very durable, but it can become dull or faded as it weathers, especially with darker colors. Sunlight, heat and moist air combine to oxidize the gelcoat surface, fading it and making the surface cloudy.

So how do you keep your composite exterior looking good? Depending upon the frequency of exposure to the elements and the darker the gelcoat color, maintenance of the composite exterior can be as little as every 6 months to as often as every 3 months or less, if the vehicle is kept out in the elements under constant exposure. It is essential to wash it often and wax it periodically, as doing so will ensure that it will remain like new for many years. Failure to perform these simple maintenance tasks may result in surface deterioration over time.

KEEP IT CLEAN

Wash the exterior of your RV at least monthly using a mild liquid detergent. Avoid cleaners that are abrasive, caustic (highly alkaline or high pH) or those cleaners containing ammonia. Caustic cleaners can cause discoloration and loss of gloss and repeated use may cause cracking and reduced UV resistance. Also, avoid dirty or gritty brushes. Remove tar, bugs, sap, and bird droppings as soon as possible to prevent staining. If using a tar and insect remover product, test a small area to be sure it is safe for use on composites.

To remove a light stain that does not wash off, first try additional washing. Next, try cleaning with an appropriate solvent, again test on an inconspicuous area. For severe stains, it may be necessary to use an abrasive cleaner, starting with a fine rubbing compound. If the stain still exists, sand lightly with 800 grit sandpaper, followed by rubbing compound and wax. RV accessory stores carry many cleaning supplies that are specially formulated for cleaning RV exteriors.

Always read labels carefully and follow label directions.

KEEP IT SHINY

Storing conditions are very important. Indoor storage is ideal. Alternatively, outdoor storage out of direct sunlight and away from tree and bird droppings is recommended. Various covers are available at RV accessory dealers. Avoid covers that trap moisture. Prolonged exposure to trapped water may cause blushing, especially in darker colors.

The gel-coat surface of your composite exterior (like all products), change color over time as part of the aging process when exposed to weathering and sunlight. Gel-coats are available in many colors and is very durable, but it can become dull or faded as it weathers. Sunlight, heat and moist air combine to oxidize the gel-coat surface, fading it and making the surface cloudy.

Depending upon the frequency of exposure to the elements and the darker the color, maintenance (washed and waxed) of the composite exterior must be completed at a minimum of every 6 months (3 months or less for darker colors). To ensure that all sides of the vehicle receive the same level of exposure to sunlight, the vehicle should be moved frequently. Failure to perform these simple maintenance tasks will void any warranty.

If the surface has been allowed to weather badly, and cleaning and wax polishing does not restore the finish satisfactorily, then compounding will be necessary. Polishing compound (fine abrasive) or rubbing compound (coarser abrasive) is recommended for use on fiberglass RVs to remove scratches, stains, or a severely weathered surface. Polishing or rubbing compound can be applied by hand or by mechanical means, such as an electrical or pneumatic buffer. After the scratched, stained or weathered surface has been removed, it should be waxed to enhance the gloss and color while providing a seal to retard staining or new soil accumulation.





KEEP IT REPAIRED

Scratches are the most common damage an RV suffers. Many of these can be removed with rubbing compound, followed by wax. Major repairs should be referred to a professional.

KEEP IT SEALED

A water tight seal is necessary to maintain the integrity of the composite wall system. Follow the RV manufacturer's guidelines. Damage caused by moisture in the RV wall will void any warranty.

RESTORING GLOSS

Materials

- Meguiar's: #49 Heavy Duty Oxidation Remover
- Meguiar's #50 Boat and RV Cleaner Wax Liquid or a Mild detergent and water
- Meguiar's: #56 Boat and RV Pure Wax
- Soft cotton cloth
- Mechanical buffer (optional)

Procedure

1. Wash the Crane Composites RV panel with a mild detergent and water.
2. Dry the Crane Composites RV panel with a clean, soft cotton cloth.
3. Apply heavy duty cleaner by following the directions on the container. (If a buffer is available, substitute polishing compound for heavy duty cleaner and buff polishing compound lightly).
4. Wash the Crane Composites RV panel with water and dry the surface.
5. Apply car wax per directions.

CRANE SIDEWALLS VARY BY MODEL AND IT IS DIFFICULT TO DETERMINE WHICH PANEL WAS USED. PLEASE CONTACT MANUFACTURER'S WARRANTY DEPARTMENT FOR WARRANTY CLAIMS.



FOR QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS, PLEASE CONTACT:

Crane Composites Customer Service Department
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