



# Using Antifoulants

**Most antifoulant products are designed to kill or slow the growth of naturally occurring organisms and therefore may cause damage to the water environment and accumulate up the marine food chain.**

In order to prevent your cleaning activities from becoming a pollution risk, please observe the following guidelines:

## Choosing

- Research and talk to the paint manufacturers before buying your paint.
- This means you get the best paint for your boat and for the water environment
- If using old antifoulant paint, ensure it does not contain banned substances (tributyltin or TBT)

## Applying

- Use a groundsheet or tarpaulin to capture paint drips and drops
- Use the correct application method for your paint (e.g. a roller or brush)
- Protect yourself as it can harm you too! – use PPE and work in a well-ventilated area

## Cleaning

- If possible, remove your craft from the water
- When cleaning or hosing off, never use more abrasion than necessary
- The water from pressure-washing your boat is contaminated and best efforts should be made to collect this
- You may only use clean water on the external surfaces of the boat if it remains afloat – don't use detergents, degreasers or any other chemical cleaner

## Removal

- Make sure that you only remove the fouling and paint that needs removing
- Place a tarpaulin or groundsheet underneath the boat to protect the ground and collect debris
- If near to the water's edge or any rainwater drains, use suitable screening and barriers to prevent solids from entering the water
- Wet abrade to minimise dust and clean the hull by wiping with a damp cloth
- Industrial vacuum-cleaners linked to a scraper tool are useful
- Avoid using paint stripper

## Disposal

- Clear up when you have finished. Make sure any old tins, brushes, blasting debris or scrapings are collected and disposed of and clean up any spilt antifouling paint
- Think about what to do with the waste paint before starting the job
- Take any waste paint to an approved disposal location

By following this best practice for antifouling, we can all work together to help minimise water pollution for a cleaner and healthier environment.

For further information go to:  
**[www.thegreenblue.org.uk](http://www.thegreenblue.org.uk)**

**If you see an environmental incident, please contact the Environment Agency on 0800 80 70 60 to let them know. This service is available 24/7.**



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