

## TECHNICAL BULLETIN 4.04

### Preparation of Marine / Water-Craft Surfaces

This bulletin specifically details marine / water-craft surface preparation for vinyl graphic products. Proper preparation of the application surface is essential for good adhesion of vinyl graphics.

#### GENERAL SURFACE PREPARATIONS:

All surfaces are considered contaminated until properly cleaned. Thus, all surfaces **MUST** be cleaned prior to any application of vinyl graphic products. See the following steps:

1. Wash the surface with detergent and water, then thoroughly rinse with water and dry completely.
2. Saturate a clean towel with a solvent in accordance with local, state and federal regulations and wipe the surface to remove any contaminants such as silicone, wax, caulk or adhesives.
3. Dry the surface with a clean, lint free paper or cloth towel before the solvent evaporates.
4. Spray the surface with one of the following products:
  - Isopropyl alcohol (recommended for fiberglass)\*
  - BETCO® CitruSolv degreaser P.N. 209 OR 3M® Citrus Base Industrial Cleaner P.N. 62-4456-8530-8 (recommended for corrugated metal typically found on pontoon boats) Note: To locate a local distributor for BETCO® CitruSolv call 888-462-3826.

Wipe immediately with a clean dry towel to dry the surface.

#### SPECIFIC SURFACE PREPARATIONS:

The following procedures describe specific surface preparation. All surfaces need to be evaluated to determine which of the following procedures is appropriate.

#### PAINTED CORRUGATED METAL SURFACE PREPARATIONS:

- Aluminum – Gloss Smooth Pre-painted
  1. Spray surface area where vinyl graphics are to be applied with a liberal amount of BETCO® CitruSolv degreaser OR 3M® Citrus Base Industrial Cleaner.
  2. Wipe surface dry with a clean dry towel using a horizontal motion parallel to corrugated metal pattern. Be sure to wipe all surfaces of the profile completely dry.
  3. Spray surface with Isopropyl Alcohol. \*
  4. Wipe surface completely dry with a clean dry towel using a horizontal motion parallel to corrugated metal pattern.

#### FIBERGLASS SMOOTH SURFACE PREPARATIONS:

- Fiberglass –
  1. Clean any silicone, caulk, or adhesives with a clean towel saturated with a solvent in accordance with local, state and federal regulations. Acetone, Lacquer thinner, and similar products are not recommended by the manufacturer of fiberglass substrates.
  2. Spray surface area where vinyl graphics are to be applied with a liberal amount of Isopropyl Alcohol. \*\*
  3. Wipe surface completely dry with a clean dry towel.

\* The use of Isopropyl Alcohol as a cleaning agent is restricted in some regions. Nothing in this Technical Bulletin is intended as a recommendation to violate federal, state, or local regulations.

\*\* When the use of Isopropyl Alcohol is restricted, substitute BETCO® CitruSolv degreaser OR 3M® Citrus Base Industrial Cleaner to clean fiberglass surfaces. Be sure to follow with a clean dry towel to remove all residue before vinyl graphic application.

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For technical assistance relating to specific application questions or Sharpline's product line, Call Sharpline's Technical Support at 1-800-888-4888 or write to:

Sharpline Converting, Inc.  
Technical Support  
P.O. Box 9608  
Wichita, Kansas 67277-0608  
E-mail: techsupport@sharpline.com

