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This is the tradesman's way for Acid washing Marine grade aluminium boat finishes:

Personal Safety:

- Full face mask and respirator NOSH approved filters.
- Full wet weather gear bib overalls and coat with hood.
- Rubber gloves
- Rubber Boots steel cap

Operators should be made aware of all safety issues when using acids. Follow OSH recommendations where in doubt for safe handling of acids

Acid wash to use:

- Arnold Chemicals : Alubrite or
- Applied Chemicals : Aliclean 2571.
 - 1. Mix acid 50 /50 with fresh clean water.
 - 2. Always add acid to water never the other way round as boiling and fuming of the solution can occur.
 - 3. Always mix enough acid to do the whole job so that ratio mix is kept constant. In most cases it is advantageous to pre mix in large quantity with an electric pump to the wand sprayer.
 - 4. A back pack type sprayer is a good_alternative:
 - 5. All acids can be swabbed on with a mop type applicator on an extension handle.
 - 6. Always have fresh water hose running to rinse spills etc.

Follow OSH requirements for drainage of washed acid.

It may be a requirement that baking soda be introduced to run-off acid/water mix to neutralise before running into storm water.

If in doubt check with your local authority.

NOTE: ALWAYS ACID WASH OUT OF DIRECT SUNLIGHT

We suggest:

Arrange a covered area or lean to shed so that sunlight cannot affect the washing and leave streaking.

Remember cover up and your personal safety at all times





The Real Deal.

New boats:

Degrease with either a degreasing detergent or solvent wiping to remove black construction marks and excess oils:

- 1. Wet the boat with water interior and exterior.
- 2. Begin acid washing interior at forward end interior and work back wards allowing acid to foam up apply evenly. Let dwell for approx 3 to 5 minutes (this will vary) and then begin rinsing with copious amounts of fresh water. Repeat this rinsing 3 times.
- 3. When interior has been completed move on to boat exterior.
- 4. Begin at transom and work round the hull sides from bottom to top, then move to cabin tops and sides (do not start at the top of the boat as this will promote and lead to streaking)

A repeat of above may be required to give an even appearance.

Watch out for hull openings and gunnel rolls where acid can accumulate so pay particular attention to these areas and rinse well as this is where most streaking can occur.

When hull is rinsed off make up a solution of Baking Soda and water. Add this to a back pack sprayer and spray on the hull to neutralise, and bring Ph to as near neutral as possible rinse again with lots of fresh water. Test with litmus paper to give true indication.

Be sure to avoid acid build up on window glass. Acid will etch and streak if left on the glass too long. Always wet glass areas or remove to make sure etching can not occur.

Do not mask out windows as acid may creep in behind the masking and 'do its business' while you think its protected .

Once acid washed and neutralised, go over the boat and blow out any void areas with an air gun. Thoroughly dry off the boat .

This is the time to check for unwanted streaks and if any are found then localised re-acid washing should remove them.

Use a thick sponge soaked lightly in acid solution to avoid contaminating larger areas and sponge away and rinse until streaks disappear. Again follow the neutralising procedure then dry with terry towelling or if circumstance permit, put the boat straight into preheated spray oven.

The more acid washing you do the better you will get. Practice does make perfect.

Our best jobs are completed quickly and without any streaks.

It may be advantageous to have two operators on your first jobs i.e., one operator rinsing and one washing especially if it is a larger vessel.

Allow to metal heat up and self dry for 30 to 40 mins. Yes, it is preferable to have a heated booth to ensure all moisture is off the substrate but plenty or air, and towelling will suffice. Simply get the substrate dry

Notes:

Put the Nyalic[®] in the booth to heat to same temp before spraying.

Turn down the heat to approx 27 deg c and spray.

Leave the boat to cure up for 45 mins at 45 deg c and which point the boat is now ready for handling:

Caution: Winter temperatures can lead to longer handling times especially when masking off for window



Decals can either be applied to the acid washed hull sides when dry then over coated. With Nyalic[®] (you should always be sure that good quality vinyl is used and test with Nyalic[®] for compatibility before over coating) Most decals will adhere to Nyalic[®] coated surface when cured. Consult your sign-writer

To Acid wash old boats:

Precautions:

As in new boats follow all safety procedures:

If boat is still in good condition an acid wash may be all that is required so follow the instructions as per new boats:

If the boat has scratches and is tatty here is a method that gives a remarkable result.

- 1. Wash the boat with a degreasing detergent to remove oil/grease etc. allow to dry
- 2. Use random orbit sander with 180 to 320 alo oxide paper to even up the aluminium surface. You can also use 3M conditioning disks on random orbit or circular sanders to achieve different degrees of finish.
- 3. Acid wash as for new boats and follow the rinsing and neutralising procedures
- 4. Dry the boat and Nyalic coat..

Variations:

Wearing gloves you can acid wash using a scotch pad and even out mild scratches on Alo hulls.





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