



# Stainless Steel & Aluminum Care

PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE  
FOR YOUR BOAT

**TACO**<sup>®</sup>  
MARINE

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The materials chosen for construction of the marine fabrication on your new boat are designed to achieve the very best  
**OVERALL PERFORMANCE.**

Despite utilizing the best materials for this application, the marine environment is one of the harshest on earth. The marine environment, atmospheric contaminants and normal wear and tear all can contribute to the onset of “pitting” on metal surfaces. The best way to keep your aluminum and stainless steel in “like-new” condition is through proper cleaning and preventive maintenance. With proper care and maintenance, the anodized aluminum and stainless steel on your boat can be kept in first-class condition for a very long time.

The information provided in this brochure is designed to give you a thorough understanding of the factors that can impact the appearance. By using this information, we hope to help you enhance the beauty and value that our products provide for your boating pleasure.

### **ANODIZED ALUMINUM**

The aluminum on your boat is anodized. This creates a very hard protective seal on the surface of the aluminum to protect it as much as possible from pitting. When the anodized coating is broken and raw aluminum is exposed, corrosion will take place. Damage from knives, gaffs or other abrasive impacts can break the anodized coating.

### **COSMETIC CORROSION (PITTING)**

#### ***What Causes It?***

Corrosion is a natural phenomenon that affects metals by either a chemical or electrochemical reaction. The rate at which aluminum corrodes depends greatly on the environmental conditions and the amount of preventive maintenance performed. Saltwater, airborne pollution and harsh chemicals from work performed at local shipyards all aide corrosion. Our goal is to slow down or stop this natural phenomenon we call pitting (or corrosion).

#### ***Chemical Attack***

Corrosive chemicals containing high concentrations of acids or alkalis will remove the anodized coating. Solutions containing chlorine, salt or ammonia are all harmful to the anodized aluminum on your boat. Many common household cleaners contain chemicals that will remove the anodizing and cause pitting.



# TYPES OF FINISHES

## STAINLESS STEEL

Stainless steel is known for its corrosion-resistant qualities. These qualities are created from an iron chromium oxide film, which protects it from rusting when in contact with oxygen.

If there are signs of rust:

- » Wash with fresh water and a high-quality detergent
- » Clean with a car chrome polish
- » Wax with a car or fiberglass wax
- » For brushed finishes (textured finish with lines), an abrasive cleaner or sand paper can be used.

*NOTE: Always test a small area first and move in the grain's direction.*

### **AVOID**

- » Cleaning with chlorinated cleaners (no bleach) or scouring powders
- » Using sand paper or abrasive cleaners on buffed or mirror-finished metals
- » Using muriatic or hydrochloric acids

## IMPORTANT TIPS

- » Wash with fresh water
- » Wash often to prevent buildup
- » Pay particular attention when cleaning the pipe and tubing directly beneath the top or canvas. These areas do not receive the natural rinsing action of rainwater. The area is shielded from the sun, hence retaining moisture, which could result in staining or pitting.

## POWDER COATED FINISH

Powder-coated finish is extremely durable if well maintained. Maintaining the good look of your powder-coated products is just like caring for your car – and is a smart way to protect your investment. Over time, with exposure to earth's elements, this finish may show signs of weathering, such as loss of gloss, chalking and slight color change.

### **CLEANING**

Regular washes protect the finish from weathering and staining. To wash the finish, use a solution of warm water and non-abrasive, pH-neutral detergent solution with a microfiber cloth or a soft natural-bristle brush. Surfaces should be thoroughly rinsed after cleaning to remove all residue.

Sheltered areas can be more at risk of coating degradation than exposed areas. This is because windblown salt and other pollutants may adhere to the surface and will not be washed away with rainfall. These areas should be inspected and cleaned regularly, if necessary.

# PROTECTIVE PRODUCTS

## CLEANERS

There are many cleaners available to maintain your boat in an effective and safe way. While many work well and are safe for use on aluminum and stainless steel, others can be harmful. Keep in mind that not all products are intended for multipurpose use.

Below are some brands that are safe and a few that are not suggested.

### SAFE

Mild dish washing liquid, specialty marine cleaners: Star Brite Sea Safe Boat Wash, Boat Wash Concentrate and Super Suds.

Safe Lubricants: CRC Corrosion Inhibitor, Corrosion Block and GetSome Extreme.

### HARMFUL

Bleach (Clorox, etc.), mild abrasive cleaners: Ajax, Comet, Soft Scrub, Rubbing Compounds, etc.

Strong cleaners: 409, Engine Degreasers, etc.



## METAL PROTECTION

There are many different products available to protect aluminum and stainless steel. Some are designed to seal and protect before problems occur and others are designed to use after pitting has appeared.

While these products are effective, they are not one-time solutions. Below are some metal protection products that are readily available at marine retailers.

- Woody Wax CPR
- Boeshield T-9
- Premier Polish
- Corrosion Block

As an industry leader and global manufacturer of recreational marine and sport fishing products, we're committed to providing the most innovative solutions for your boat building and OEM needs. We specialize in Sport Fishing, Rub Rail, Seating, Hardware & Accessories and Canvas & Tower Fabrication, as well as custom and specialty product design, manufacturing and distribution. As a family-owned and operated company that has been in business for nearly 60 years, we're proud to continually meet the demands of an ever-changing market with our technical and design expertise, custom manufacturing, industry-leading warranties, shorter lead times, readily-available inventory and, most of all, our innovative products in all categories. Discover more at [tacomarine.com](http://tacomarine.com).