

THE YACHT SURFACE PROTECTION GUIDE

The Guide for Temporary Surface Protection of Yachts During Build & Refit



The yacht & superyacht sector is renowned around the world for its exceptional achievements in the highest quality workmanship. It is one of the most prestigious and innovative markets to work within.

Each individual yacht is superbly flamboyant whilst being delicately crafted and fine-tuned in every detail.

The sector places high demands on any of its builders & contractors.

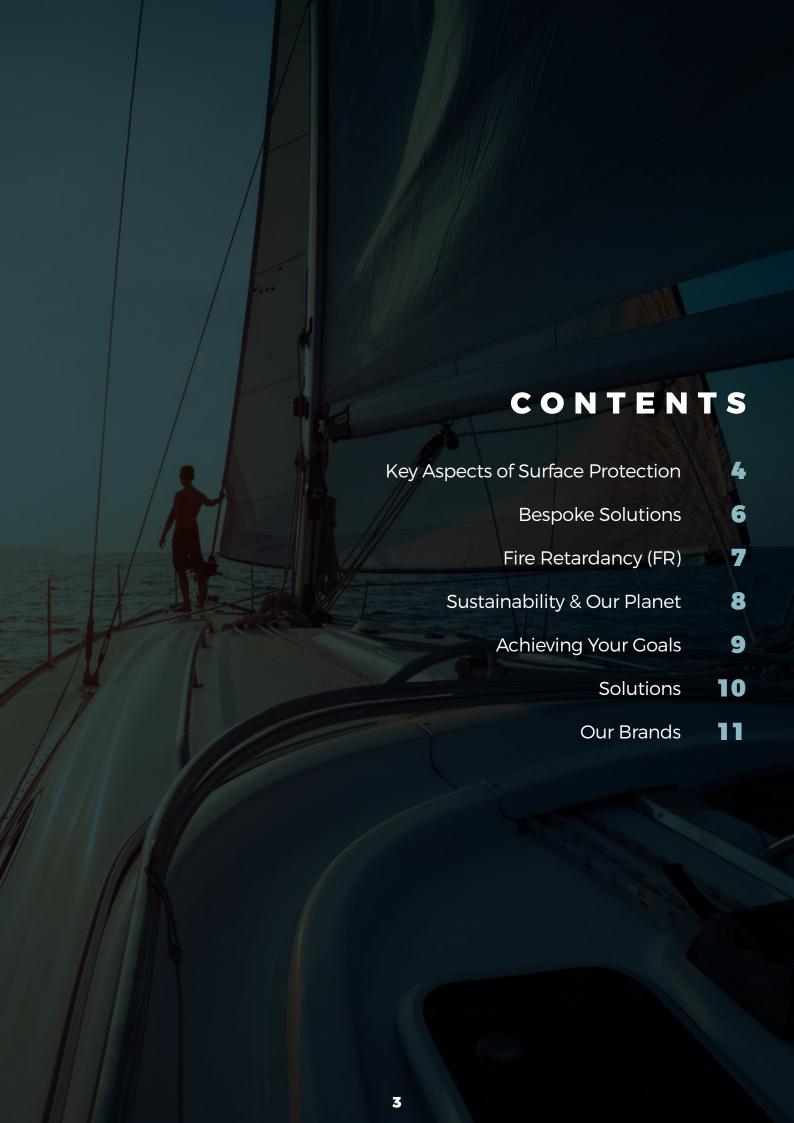
Perfection is the only standard that is acceptable.

Perfection – "The action or process of improving something until it is flawless".

The Fendwrap Yacht Surface Protection Guide has been written to share knowledge and expertise across the sector.

High quality, effective temporary surface protection is a key and vital part of any build or refit project. With proactive planning & foresight it can significantly increase the quality of the results whilst reducing the cost and time spent on a project.

If surface protection is done right, workers can concentrate on their job without worry, hassle, downtime or wasted resources.



KEY ASPECTS

Surface preparation

A lot of attention is given to applying protection materials properly so that the protection is satisfactory and fail-proof.

However, it is important that the surface is prepared for the protection material too.

If a surface has a finished coating on it, ensure it is free from grit that could be compressed into the surface or dragged along it by the protection material. Also ensure any surface is free from grease, cleaning substances and any other chemicals otherwise they could become trapped onto the surface for prolonged periods of time and go unnoticed.

An option to consider for delicate surfaces is a soft protection product with a soft pressure material on one side, and a hard-outer protection on the other.

Product testing

It is very important to work with a protection provider that is prepared to let you test a product thoroughly on a surface before you commit to using it on a project.

There are many different aspects to consider which can affect how the adhesive on a protection product will react with a surface once applied.

These include:

- The topcoat of the surface
- Temperature & humidity
- Length of time in use
- Exposure to sunlight or chemicals
- Method of applying the protection material
- High / low traffic areas
- Keeping a professional image
- How the protection material is removed.



High traffic areas

It is important to consider what level the traffic is in any area being protected.

This is for 2 reasons:

- An inferior protection or one for low traffic areas will not give full protection in a high traffic area
- If protection materials need to be re-fitted too frequently this is a waste of time, money & resources.

A high proportion of damage on build & refit projects is created by small but frequent damages, which initially go unnoticed. An example of this would be a tool belt scraping lightly on a wall or handrail as workers walk past.

Sometimes the presence of protection materials can cause less vigilance because of the feeling that it will be protected. You could consider bespoke printed messages on your materials to reinforce the need for care.

Residue

The right protection material for the right job should never leave a residue.

Trials are important to ensure that the material you are using reacts correctly with the surface it is adhered to.

Be sure to check a surface for residue after it has been allowed to air for some time after the protection has been removed. Residues do not always appear immediately.

Training

It is vital to ensure that if you are implementing new protection solutions, that your teams are trained in how to use them.

The real benefit in efficiencies is when the whole team understands the correct methods & practices to use, and why.



Traditional Methods

Some of the methods used for surface protection in the yacht building sector are traditional and have been in place for many years.

These have been developed and trusted over time with very good reason - we all know that they work.

Along with some of these tried and trusted methods, it can be good to have a fresh look at different ways of doing things to see if improvements can be made.

Advantages

The biggest advantages and efficiencies can be gained by working with a protection provider to tailor a bespoke protection solution for your project.

Although this will take longer to set up, a good provider will ensure your desired outcomes are achieved and measured in the short and long term, giving you the maximum return on your investment.

Measuring Results

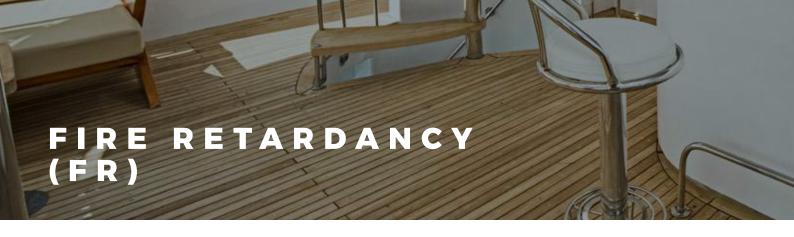
It can be helpful to complete time and motion studies to measure the performance of your current solutions before you trial new ones.

The results can then be compared to ensure you are achieving your goals.

Combining Current Methods

Many contractors have found bespoke solutions advantageous in combining two or more of their current methods into one.

For example, if a current process includes using several different adhesive tapes and some polythene sheeting, this could be combined into one material that included the tape and sheeting. This would reduce time, cost & material wastage.



Fire Rating Standards

There are 3 main standards used in Europe when certifying the fire retardancy of protection products.

These are EN130501, DIN4102 (B1) and NFP92 503-505 (M1).

Some shipyards also have their own regulations that contractors have to meet to satisfy their Fire Safety requirements.

What are Fire Retardants?

The aim of flame or fire retardancy is to reduce the ability of a material to ignite.

The retardants are chemicals that are applied to materials to prevent the start or slow the growth of fire. They have been used in many consumer and industrial products for over 50 years.

Difference between resistant and retardant

Fire resistant products are non-flammable so structurally will not ignite. Fire retardant products have additives added to change their properties so as to delay or work against the igniting of fire.

Types of fire retardants

There are many different types of fire retardants such as brominated, polybrominated diphenyl ethers, tetrabromobisphenol A, hexabromocyclododecane. The most popular for protection materials are brominated retardants.

Certification

Ensure that you are in possession of the correct certification for your jurisdiction, showing the certification of the fire retardancy of the products you are using. Also ensure that you are communicating with your insurers to have the correct fire insurance cover.



Now - for the Future

We are all responsible for doing our bit for the environment, and this trend is coming into focus more strongly in our yachting industry too.

Yacht owners and owners' teams are becoming more and more conscious of the impact that their boats have on the environment, so the best place to start improving this is in the build and refit processes.

Sustainability

There are different aspects to consider with regards to sustainability;

Materials used:

- Renewable or non-renewable
- Harmful additives
- Pollution from manufacturing process
- Using new or recycled materials

Duration of application:

 Do the protection materials need to be replaced during the project?

Disposal of materials:

- Separating materials for different waste channels
- Processes needed for recycling
- Biodegradable content

Reusable solutions:

- The ultimate for sustainability
- Lifetime of a reusable product or kit
- Return on investment

A Warning

Be careful of the terms that some providers use regarding the sustainability of their surface protection products.

Words like biodegradable and recyclable have true meaning, but can often be misused.

A Vision

Imagine a build or refit project where there is zero waste to landfill from the surface protection products.

Is this possible? Could it be in the near future? The world is your oyster...



Specific

Whatever your project goals are, - increasing sustainability, reducing costs, increasing safety, improving brand image...ensure they are specific and documented. This will maximise the likelihood of achieving them.

Measurable

Work with your provider to find a meaningful measurement for your goal.

Use a measurement that will show you have achieved success! Ensure the measurement is clear and understood between all parties with no ambiguity.

Agreed

Get your goals agreed from the beginning of the project.

Realistic

Be realistic.

There are almost unlimited options if you are prepared to invest in bespoke solutions, but also remember that it is better to make some progress than none at all. Some clients prefer small but consistent progress towards their goals, whereas others prefer larger changes.

Time

Have a journey plan mapped out with your provider.

Hold them to your timescales, and ensure they stay focused on your desires and goals.



Decking & Walkways

Walkways are often in high traffic areas. These areas would traditionally need the protection materials replaced more frequently, but newer product developments can avoid this being necessary. If a teak deck has been recently coated it will need breathable protection material to allow it to cure.

Furniture

Furniture needs to be protected while it is being built, during installation, and all the way to project completion. It is unwise to remove the protection while tradespeople are still working on the boat, due to the damages that will be caused.

Some yacht builders have found re-usable protection kits beneficial if their furniture ranges are based on a set range of pieces.

High Gloss & Varnish

Surfaces that have a high gloss or sheen can be difficult to adhere to without damaging the shine. We have created solutions specifically to solve this problem.

Fittings & rails

Although only small, these ancillaries give the finishing touches to these beautiful boats. They are often in places where they protrude and are therefore very vulnerable to being scratched or damaged. With modern protection solutions they can be quickly and easily protected.

Tenting & Scaffolding

The creating of a tent or scaffolding protection can make the difference between a project that is well run, and one that isn't. Solutions are available to reduce the traditional tent building time by up to 50%.

Gelcoat

With the sensitivities of gelcoat surfaces and the high cost of re-working, it is crucial that products protect well but don't damage the surface.

Glass

Glass is a sensitive surface that also requires a very specific level of careful protection during these projects.

Polished Metal

Padded and absorbent protection products are the best for highly polished metal. Protect early, as micro-scratches can occur very easily and cannot always be seen until a close, final inspection.



Fendwrap has created 3 unique product ranges to help our customers achieve their project goals with temporary protection.



The sustainability question is coming to the forefront of our industry and we are keeping ahead of the curve and creating protection solutions to answer to this.

This is an ongoing journey we are on along with some of the most respected companies in the marine sector.



With increasing demand to make new build and refit projects safer, we have sharpened our focus on our range of fire retardant protection products

They are the same exceptional quality products, but fire retardant too.



As well as our core range of products we love working with our customers on bespoke solutions for their projects.

We are renowned in the industry for creating solutions that are tailored to your project.



Fendwrap provides exceptional protection products for prestigious yacht builders & contractors, during construction, refit & painting.

We have worked with them closely to craft both core products and bespoke solutions for the industry.

Our products have been carefully created with the knowledge that there is no room for mistakes during a build or refit project. Fendwrap's products are there to protect the high quality of your craftsmanship..

The feedback we have received throughout the industry proves the consistently high quality and performance of the products within our brands.

Fendwrap

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