

Painting a Steel Boat

A steel-hulled boat is a durable and long-lasting investment, provided that one is precise in attending to normal routine-maintenance cycles. One essential task is repainting the hull. Over time, marine paint can crack or be scratched by barnacles, marine life and dock fenders, giving water a means of working its corrosive magic. With some effort and equipment, hulls can be well-painted and rust free.

A word about Steel Boats: The only protection between a steel boat hull and the rigors of the sea is the coat of paint applied above the water line. Below the waterline, the steel hull is protected from damaging marine life by the coat of anti-fouling paint applied over a coat of the same paint used above the water line. Proper surface preparation and proper application of paint is instrumental in keeping the hull in good condition.

Supplies Needed:

- Air-powered grinder
- Coarse Grinding Wheel
- Chipping hammer
- Needle Gun
- Horizontal deck scaler
- Epoxy primer
- Drill
- Paint-mixer attachment
- Paint rollers and brushes
- Gloves, Safety glasses, protective clothing, ear protection

Instructions:

1. Remove any rust from the steel, hull using an air-powered grinder and coarse grinding wheel. In places where the grinder is too large to fit, knock the rust from the steel using a chipping hammer or a needle gun. Large horizontal surfaces, like decks, may be quickly stripped using a horizontal deck scaler.
2. Apply Hawthorne Marine Primer or Hawthorne OverRust to large areas of the boat with a paint roller. Use a paintbrush to apply the primer to areas where the roller is too large. Paint the entire steel structure.
3. Allow the primer to dry completely. Apply a second coat of epoxy primer and allow the primer to dry fully.
4. After the second coat of primer has dried, apply Hawthorne Marine Yacht Enamel to the vessel using a paint roller for the large areas of the vessel and a paintbrush for smaller areas. Allow the paint to dry fully.
5. Apply at least one additional coat of Hawthorne Synthetic Enamel Paints.
6. Apply at least one coat of Hawthorne Synthetic Enamel Hardner.