

Painting a Wood Boat

Whether your boat is a large sailing vessel or a small fishing boat, it needs proper maintenance in order to look its best. Painting your boat ensures a fresh look and a fun watercraft. If you choose to tackle a new paint job without the help of a professional, be sure to follow a few tips and preparing your wood boat for paint is sure to be a breeze.

Supplies you will need:

- Screwdriver
- Liquid detergent
- Stiff bristle brush
- Rags
- Steel pan scrubber, or scraper
- Painters Glazing compound
- 80 grit sandpaper, or 120 grit sandpaper if you are sanding over previous paint
- Vacuum cleaner

Instructions:

- Plan to work on a dry day with low humidity and in a work area that will not be disturbed by wind.
- Balance the wooden boat on the two sawhorses. Getting the boat up allows you to work all the way around the boat much better than you could if it were on the ground. The initial positioning of the boat on the sawhorses isn't important, although it may be easier if the bottom of the boat is on the sawhorses, with the inside area of the boat facing up.
- Remove any hardware, with a screwdriver, that could be scratched or damaged.
- Apply liquid laundry detergent to your boat with a stiff brush. Let this sit for five minutes to loosen dirt and remove any grease. Wash and dry with rags.
- Prepare the wooden surface before painting by removing any loose paint chips. A steel pan scrubber works well for this procedure.
- Fill any large cracks with painter's glazing compound. Do not use epoxy fillers on fastener holes as it cannot be easily removed at a later date, if necessary.
- Sand the bare wood with 80 grit sandpaper. Use 120 grit sand paper if you are sanding over previous paint.
- Vacuum to remove all dust before painting.
- Paint three coats of Hawthorne Marine Primer below the waterline and two above it.
- Paint topcoat using Hawthorne Marine Yacht Enamel. Follow the label directions. Paint can be brushed, rolled or sprayed onto a wooden boat. Good ventilation is necessary, especially if spraying. Rolling takes two people, one to roll and another to follow and brush out air bubbles.