

# Out of 52 paints, 15 standout after 18 months

After 18 months, our Group A panels are revealing some interesting trends regarding anti-slime additives, specialty paints, and long-term antifouling protection.

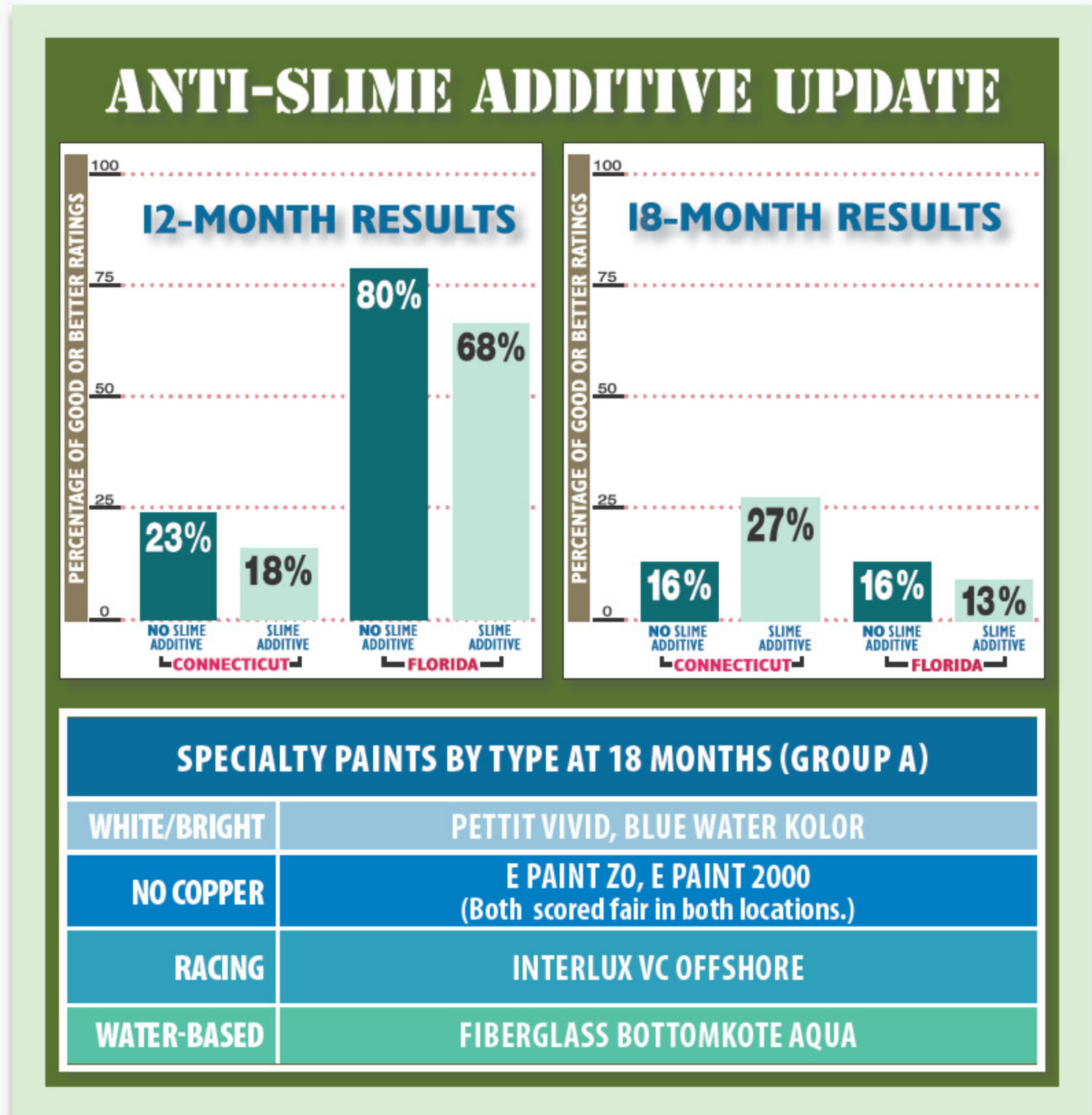
Many paints add anti-slime herbicides to combat growth, and these paints generally cost more. In Connecticut, the percentage of paints with anti-slime additives that scored Good or better after 18 months is higher than it was after 12 months. In Florida, the paints with anti-slime additives still seem to be doing no better than those without.

As for the specialty paints (see adjacent table), the no-copper paints took a nosedive after 18 months. None scored Good or better, and two scored at the bottom.

Overall, however, Group A seems to be faring well at the 18-month mark (see table, facing page). Just six paints that allowed hard growth, and they were primarily environmentally-friendly paints, low-saltwater paints, or paints for metal.

The table on the facing page shows only the 15 Group A paints that scored the best (at least one Good), or the worst (at least one Poor) after 18 months. The other 37 paints—which can be identified by cross-referencing with the tables on pages 10 and 11—scored Fair in both locations. We will continue to test all of the paints in Group A.

Hard paints are dominating the endurance test. After 18 months, only three of



our top 15 paints are ablative/copolymer paints, the type that wear away over time. However, one of these self-polishing paints, Micron 66, is among the top four in both Florida and Connecticut after 18 months.

Also worth noting is that 10 of the top-rated 15 paints in this test are promoted as single-season coatings. Three of them, Epoxycop, Unepoxy, and Bottomkote Aqua (all Interlux paints), are relatively cheap.