

	TYPE	NAME	MFR.	PRICE/ GALLON*	SPECIALTY/COMMENTS	COPPER % (by weight)	ANTI-SLIME AGENT	24-MONTH RATINGS	
								FL	CT
BEST	ABLATIVE/SOFT	Micron 66 ★	Interlux	\$275	Fast dry	40%	Zinc Pyrithione	Fair	Good
		Trilux 33 ✓	Interlux	\$250	Bright colors, aluminum	17%	Zinc Pyrithione	Fair	Fair
		Nautical Epoxycop Ablative \$	Interlux	\$110	Economy ablative	43%	No	Fair	Fair
		Biocop TF ✓	Sea Hawk	\$255	Dual biocide ablative	38%	Zinc Omadine	Fair	Good
		Cukote ✓	Sea Hawk	\$162	High copper ablative	48%	No	Fair	Good
		Cukote Biocide Plus ✓	Sea Hawk	\$194	Dual biocide, high copper	48%	Irgarol	Fair	Good
		Monterey ✓	Sea Hawk	\$149	Water based	55%	No	Fair	Fair
		Copper Pro SCX 67 ✓	Blue Water	\$185	Biocide boosted ablative	67%	Irgarol	Good	Fair
		Copper Shield SCX 45 ✓	Blue Water	\$170	Dual biocide, high copper	45%	Irgarol	Fair	Fair
		Z0 ✓	Epaint	\$212	Aluminum	None	Zinc Pyrithione	Fair	Good
		Horizons ✓	Pettit	\$160	High copper ablative	48%	No	Fair	Fair
	HARD	Fiberglass Bottomkote \$	Interlux	\$150	Dual biocide, fast dry, racing	43%	Irgarol	Fair	Fair
		Fiberglass Bottomkote Aqua ✓	Interlux	\$150	Water based, fast dry	46%	No	Fair	Fair
		VC Offshore ✓	Interlux	\$270	Racing	41%	No	Fair	Fair
		Trinidad SR ✓	Pettit	\$225	High copper, dual biocide	70%	Irgarol	Fair	Fair
		Unepoxy Plus ★	Pettit	\$125	Budget priced, high copper	56%	No	Good	Fair
		Vivid ✓	Pettit	\$175	Fast dry, bright colors	25%	Zinc Omadine	Good	Fair
	EP 2000	Epaint	\$249	No copper, hard racing finish	None	Zinc Pyrithione	Fair	Fair	

✓ Recommended ★ Best Choice \$ Budget Buy

* Prices based on online search. Shipping excluded.

Antifouling Paints that Can Go the Distance

Two years is about the best you can expect from today's antifouling paints, although they can be coaxed into longer service with regular use and cleaning. Usually, paints that last this long are expensive blends—hard paints loaded with copper or advanced ablatives that extend the release of biocide.

The above table shows the best performing paints out of a field of 67 that went into testing in June 2007. Each paint has been rated a total of 16 times (eight in each location, Florida and Connecticut), and this is the last rating period for this set. To make the two-year list, a paint must have no Poor ratings, earn a total of at least three Good ratings, or be the best performing paint in its category (water based, aluminum friendly, etc.). Test and ratings procedures mirrored those used for our one-year paints. (See "How We Tested," page 7.)

Previous tests have shown both hard and ablative paints to be effective over a 24-month period. While you can extend the life of an ablative by adding coats (most makers say stop at four coats), exceeding the recommended coats of a hard paint is not cost effective. (For more on paint types, see page 7.)

ABLATIVE PAINTS

Among the top ablative paints, Blue Water's Copper Shield SCX 45 and Pettit Horizons both provided good performance at around the \$170 mark, but Interlux's Epoxycop Ablative (not to be confused with Epoxycop Hard) was by far the least expensive. This is a \$89 ablative is being dropped from Interlux's

product line so there might not be much left on store shelves come spring. Interlux recommends its Fiberglass Bottomkote ACT instead, but it didn't make our two-year cut.

Not surprisingly, high-priced ablatives dominated the field: Interlux's Micron 66 (not for fresh water), Blue Water's Copper-Pro SCX 67 and three blends from Sea Hawk, Biocop TF, Cukote, Cukote Biocide Plus. Micron 66 started off the strongest, but all five paints were closely matched after 12 months. Two-thirds of the best ablative paints are so-called dual biocide paints.

In the aluminum-friendly category, Epaint's Z0 and Interlux's Trilux 33 managed to stay barnacle free. For extended life, Epaint recommends the color white and routine (soft) cleaning.

HARD PAINTS

Four moderately-priced hard paints made the final cut, two from Interlux—Fiberglass Bottomkote and Fiberglass Bottomkote Aqua—and two from Pettit—Unepoxy Plus and Vivid. Of the four, Unepoxy Plus scored the highest marks during the course of the rating period.

Trinidad SR, a high copper paint boosted with the slime-fighter Irgarol, beat out all the other higher-priced hard paints, including regular Trinidad, which remained barnacle free at 24 months, but only mustered one Good during the rating period, so it didn't make this list. Vivid, VC Offshore, and EP 2000 (the only non-copper hard paint to survive) are our picks among paints marketed to racers.