

## The Final Chapter

**F**or long-term protection of your boat's bottom, our paint list is short. Only seven paints, out of 52 tested on our two-year panels, earned ratings high enough (Good or better on three of the last four ratings) to get *PS's* recommendation. Our full list of the best of the two-year-old paints includes 16 that scored at least two Goods in the last four ratings.

Hard paints are in the winner's circle in overwhelming numbers, considering they make up a smaller segment of the paints overall. Out of the recommended seven, five are hard paints.

Our top choice paint after two years underwater is Interlux Micron 66. This self-polishing copolymer paint is tin-free and according to the Interlux website, it "...reacts with salt water in a controlled way, sustaining the release of biocides throughout the lifetime of the antifouling without decline. This means the boat will be protected from fouling buildup even when stationary for prolonged periods." We agree, and think our test results prove this. Micron 66 should not be used in freshwater.

Interlux also took top Budget Buy honors at two years with Epoxycop. It earned across-the-board Good ratings, and at \$70 a gallon, it's one of the cheaper paints tested.

Specialty paint picks remained largely unchanged from the 18-month checkup. Pettit Vivid and Blue Water Kolor, both available in a variety of bright colors and in white, are once again our top choices in this specialty category. Interlux Fiberglass Bottomkote, Interlux VC Offshore, and Pettit Unepoxy Plus also made the recommended list.

No eco-friendly copper-free paints made the cut. However, both EP2000 and ZO from Epaint would be our choices. The pair earned mostly Fair ratings at the 18-month and two-year mark with one Good rating for ZO in Connecticut.

Our top water-based paint is Interlux Fiberglass Bottomkote Aqua. It's a relative steal at \$98 a gallon.



*Several paints had lost their oomph after two years in Long Island Sound, allowing a lot of hard growth (above) and earning Poor ratings.*

### SPECIALTY PAINTS BY TYPE (TWO YEAR)

WHITE/BRIGHT	PETTIT VIVID, BLUE WATER KOLOR
NO COPPER	E PAINT ZO, E PAINT 2000 (Both scored mostly Fair in both locations.)
RACING	EPOXYCOP, INTERLUX VC OFFSHORE
WATER-BASED	FIBERGLASS BOTTOMKOTE AQUA

After two years of attack by saltwater, five paints had deteriorated to the point where they were allowing hard growth and getting Poor ratings. Most of these were designed for freshwater use only, so were overwhelmed by the organisms in the saltwater marine environment. This list includes Interlux VC17m, Interlux VC 17m Extra, Pettit SR-21, Epaint EP-21, and Interlux Prop and Drive.