

# Tips for Maintaining Topcoats

## Maintaining an Awlgrip or Awlcraft 2000 Topcoat

It is difficult for dirt grime and grease to adhere to an **Awlgrip** or **Awlcraft 2000** Topcoat. However, over time, a build up of dirt, grease and other contaminants can cause the finish to appear dull.

The mirror-like gloss can be easily maintained by following these simple rules.

### Do:

1. Wash the surface regularly with Awlwash 73234 and water. Regular cleaning will avoid build up which can slowly attack the topcoat, prematurely ageing the coating. Use soft, non-abrasive cloths, sponges or washing mitts when washing.
2. **Awlgrip only:**

Solvents such as Awlprep T0008, Awlprep Plus T0115, toluene, laquer thinner, M.E.K., acetone or kerosene may be used to soften or remove heavy build-ups of grease and grime, felt tip markings or spray paint on the topcoat.

### **Awlcraft 2000 only:**

Use only mild solvents to remove stubborn stains. Awlprep T0008, mineral spirits, xylene, kerosene and diesel fuel are acceptable for use on Awlcraft 2000.

### **Awlgrip and Awlcraft 2000:**

Apply solvents with soft clean cloths. Wipe up solvent quickly. Do not allow solvent to dry on the surface or puddle and soak into the surface. Wash these areas with Awlwash and water to remove solvent residue. When using solvents to remove stains, test an inconspicuous area first.

3. Always thoroughly rinse surfaces with fresh water after cleaning with Awlwash or solvents. Latent solvent residue can attack the topcoat, while detergent residue will attract dirt.
4. Use distilled white vinegar and hot water to remove stubborn salt stains. Washing with Awlwash after use of vinegar is recommended.
5. Use Awlcare 73240 by hand only to remove mild diesel soot stains.

### **Awlgrip and Awlcraft 2000:**

Protecting the surface with Awlcare 73240 will help maintain the gloss of Awlgrip or Awlcraft 2000. Awlcare is a hand applied, non-abrasive, synthetic polymer. It will remove mild stains, water spots and diesel soot while increasing resistance to attack from acid rain and other pollutants, when applied regularly. It contains no harsh abrasives. Awlcare leaves a non-yellowing, protective polymer coating which lasts through multiple washings. Use Awlcare to temporarily seal and restore gloss to painted surfaces dulled by age or mistreatment.

### Do Not:

1. Do not use traditional waxes.

### **General:**

Traditional waxes break down rapidly. The residue can cause the topcoat to appear yellow, plus it attracts dirt. This creates the need to maintain the wax, increasing overall maintenance. Traditional waxes which contain no abrasives probably do little harm to the coating, but offer no benefit.

Awlgrip has developed Awlcare Protective Polymer Sealer 73240 for those who want to enhance their finish

and need the additional cleaning power of a hand applied, dry wash product. Awlcare is a non-yellowing sealer that will protect both Awlgrip and Awlcraft 2000 with regular applications. Hand applied Awlcare will not harm Awlgrip topcoats and can easily be removed with Awlprep Plus T0115 (or T0340 Surface Cleaner in Europe) when it is time to repaint.

#### **Awlgrip only:**

Regular applications of Awlcare will help temporarily seal and restore shine to painted surfaces that have become porous due to age or mistreatment, helping to maintain a satisfactory appearance until there is time to repaint.

#### **Awlcraft 2000 only:**

Awlcare Protective Polymer Sealer will help maintain the gloss on Awlcraft 2000 topcoats with regular applications, especially those which have been buffed or polished. Remember, Awlcare is only applied and buffed by hand. Never apply or buff Awlcare with a machine.

2. Do not use abrasives, scratch pads or polishing compounds. Scratching the surface gives dirt a place to cling while wearing out the resin layer. Using abrasives of any kind will reduce the overall life of the finish and voids the Awlgrip Limited Warranty.
3. Do not allow contact between the Awlgrip or Awlcraft 2000 Topcoat and teak cleaners. Most teak cleaners contain acids or caustic agents that stain and discolor an Awlgrip or Awlcraft 2000 Topcoat.
4. Do not allow metal polishes to dry on the surface of Awlgrip or Awlcraft 2000. Metal polishes may discolor and stain the painted surface. Metal polishes contain acids. Rainwater and dew running off metal fittings will spread metal polish residue onto the paint surface and will etch and dull the paint finish. Washing freshly polished metal fittings thoroughly with Awlwash and water can help eliminate polish residue and reduce the metal polish run off.
5. Do not use strong solvents (e.g. lacquer thinner, M.E.K., acetone) to clean Awlcraft 2000, Awlbrite Clear or Awlspat Varnish.
6. Do not allow wet equipment (e.g. seat cushions, coils of line, sails, sail covers, coolers) to trap and hold moisture against Awlgrip Topcoats. This condition can result in blistering or delamination of the Awlgrip or Awlcraft 2000 Topcoat.
7. Do not use acrylic Teflon® coatings over an Awlgrip or Awlcraft 2000 Finish. Use of these coatings void the Awlgrip Limited Warranty.
8. Do not 'shrink wrap' or tightly bind Awlgrip or Awlcraft 2000 Topcoat surfaces with plastic wrappings. The cover system, whether synthetic or natural fiber, should be ventilated to allow the coating system to 'breathe'. Do not pull the cover tight to the surface painted with Awlgrip or Awlcraft 2000 Topcoat. This can trap and hold moisture on the surface, resulting in loss of gloss, blistering, or delamination of the topcoat. Do not allow the cover to chafe against the painted surface, a chafing cover, especially when accompanied by airborne dirt, can abrade the surface and cause premature loss of gloss.