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GUIDANCE FOR USE

Keelblack is applied very differently from conventional bituminous paints or 2 pack epoxies. New users including Yards should call Keelblack for guidance.

1. INTRODUCTION

The following is a suggested guide for use for the application of **Keelblack**.

NB Local conditions may require changes to the described application. Other methods may be trialled at the user's discretion. Keelblack welcomes feedback by email or telephone.

2. REQUIRED EQUIPMENT

Paint pads are recommended. 8" or 9" rollers (open-texture/ textured-finish cellular foam type – usually orange or yellow) may be used with short and long handles, roller trays and clingfilm (for overnight storage), white spirit. Do not use natural fleece or small cell (white) gloss rollers. Long bristled brushes tend to clog so several would be required, used in rotation and periodically cleaned. **Keelblack** can be applied very rapidly by paint pad or roller but is not suitable for spray application without special equipment able to handle bituminous emulsions. Call **Keelblack** for spraying advice.

3. PROCEDURE

KEELBLACK CAN BE APPLIED TO DAMP STEEL. IN NORMAL WEATHER CONDITIONS, THERE IS NO NEED TO DRY OR DEHUMIDIFY OR HEAT THE HULL BEFORE APPLICATION. Keelblack is a water based emulsion, but very wet surfaces should be avoided.

If using outside, do not apply during periods of rain. Ideally, all works should take place in an environment protected from rainfall and left covered until touch dry. **Keelblack** should only be applied in temperatures of 5°C and above. However in very cold weather conditions both steel and Keelblack may need gentle warming (see below). **Keelblack** can be warmed to around 40° to 50°C. This assist drying and curing. **The emulsion WILL SEPARATE if in contact with frozen steel.**

Old steel surfaces should be pressure washed clean, all marine growth removed and freed of flaking material with a scraper. Heavy rust should be wire-brushed or ground back to bare steel then primed with **Fertan** in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and the chemical reaction allowed to work for 24 hours. Any residue from the **Fertan** must be washed off before **Keelblack** is applied. On painted surfaces previously treated with bituminous paint or 2-pack epoxy, ensure all flaking paint is removed where possible and flatted back. If the type of previous coating is unknown, a small test area should be tried to check that there is no reaction between it and **Keelblack**. **Keelblack** will flow between old paint and the steel and can help to re-bond previous coats of bitumastic to the hull but **Keelblack** applied over flaking paintwork may detach.

New steel should have any millscale removed and ideally be primed with a good rust inhibiting primer. Keelblack recommends **Fertan**.

Keelblack is not like solvent based blacking products. It is **VITAL** to apply several **VERY THIN COATS** for which a paint pad is ideal. **Keelblack** covers approximately 10 square meters per litre (basis a single coat) although on well-prepared surfaces and on new steel the coverage rate may be greater. At least three coats of **Keelblack** should be applied initially and, on subsequent dockings, two coats may be sufficient. Allow the first coat to touch dry before applying subsequent coats. Drying times are rapid and as a general rule subsequent coats can be applied at one end as soon as the coating has been completed at the other end. Subsequent coats should achieve greater coverage and should NOT be abraded or flatted between applications.

Keelblack forms a hard skin permanently bonded to the steel. Should any damage to the treated surface expose bare steel, touch in if possible with **Fertan** and re-apply **Keelblack** with a paint pad or small brush. **Fertan** is ineffective when applied to any surface other than bare or rusty steel.

3. CURING

Keelblack MUST be allowed to cure before steel hulls are relaunched. In dry conditions with good airflow, allow 24 – 36 hours. In damp/ humid conditions, allow **at least** 48 hours. A finger-nail test will indicate the hardness of the product. Steel treated with Keelblack will cease curing once immersed in water. Topsides remaining exposed to the air will continue to harden.

4. HEATING

Warming is unnecessary in normal weather but during exceptionally cold periods, Keelblack may be warmed to a **maximum of 40°-50°C**. Excessive heating risks breaking and destroying the emulsion.

5. DILUTION

Do not dilute with water or any thinners.

6. DURING USE

For short term storage, pads, brushes and rollers should ALWAYS be kept in product, in water or in white spirit when not in use. For long term storage, wash out with clean water and detergent.

7. AFTER USE AND CLEANING

Wet **Keelblack** can be easily removed with water. Dried or cured **Keelblack** may require use of white spirit. Splashes on fabric may leave a stain. Clogged pads, brushes or rollers may need softening in white spirit before cleaning with fresh white spirit and rinsing in a water and soap solution.

8. STORAGE - PROTECT FROM FROST.

All containers should be regularly agitated to avoid excessive settlement. Bulk and IBC material should be circulated, drums should be rolled several times and cans agitated before use. It is essential that the product is regularly agitated in storage to retard the natural tendency for emulsions to separate. Store above 5°-10°C; for small quantities, store in a heated environment. The white band apparent in a can that has not been recently agitated is latex which easily recombines.

9. HEALTH AND SAFETY ADVICE / SUMMARY

Keelblack is non-hazardous and non-toxic however contact with the skin should be minimised by the use of protective clothing and suitable gloves. Eyes should be protected from splashes. **For full information, reference should be made to the Safety Data Sheet at www.keelblack.com.**

10. ENVIRONMENT

Keelblack IS NON-HAZARDOUS, NON-TOXIC AND CONTAINS NO SOLVENTS and is environmentally inert when dry. In a liquid state it should not be discharged into watercourses and empty containers should be disposed of in accordance with local authority regulations. See Environmental Statement

11. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

All products should be used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. No responsibility can be taken by the manufacturer where conditions of use are beyond our control. **Keelblack** products are sold subject to **Keelblack Ltd** Standard Conditions of Sale, available on request. Whilst any information and/or specification contained herein is to the best of our knowledge true and accurate, no warranty is given or implied in connection with any recommendations or suggestions made by us or our Representatives, Agents or Distributors as the conditions of use and any labour involved are beyond our control.

Keelblack technical data sheets are updated on a regular basis. Contact Keelblack for revisions.

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