

Teak Deck Maintenance on Yachts using Boracol®

The teak deck should be part of your boats character. However after a few weeks the teak will turn greyish. A smooth silvery grey deck is probably what most people like to see but the reality is often something quite different!



Teak decks are prone to algae and mould growth, which disfigures the decking making it unsightly and slippery.

For some years we have had enquiries for Boracol from yacht owners across the world, especially from Halberg Rassy owners with teak decks. They've said that HR recommend Boracol for controlling moulds on teak decks and algae and those who've used it say it works splendidly, with some treatments lasting 1-2 years. It is obvious that all kind of boats with teak decks, could take advantage of a treatment with Boracol if they have the above problem.



In 2010 BORACOL was tested in the German magazine "Die Yacht". It rated 5 "stars" and was labelled "genialer Algenschreck": superior against algae and mildew (mould)!

It is recommended not to use acid cleaners, hard brushes or pressure washers on teak decks. The deck should only be cleaned with soft, neutral pH soap or a gentle shampoo, using a very soft brush or sponge to spare the soft parts of the wood fibres and seams. Wash across the grain to minimize wear of the teak.

Boracol is a glycol/borate, which contains a combination of active ingredients, with Benzalkonium Chloride (BAC) as the main component for the control of algae. Disodium Octaborate Tetrahydrate (DOT) is included as the product has multiple uses in the building industry for controlling wood decay fungi and although DOT has no direct effect on algae, it does have a synergism with the BAC, extending its active life and efficacy.

Boracol also contains a low volatility glycol alcohol, a moisture scavenger, which helps drive the active ingredients deep into the timber.



Painted aluminium panel 6 months after treatment with Boracol 5Rh



Application

1. Wash to remove all dirt and coatings (some manufacturers do not recommend pressure washing - check first). **Allow the surface to dry out until just damp.**
2. Apply one coat of Boracol, by brush or spray, to refusal (that is, visibly wet on the surface, but not running off). Avoid any run off to other parts and from the boat.
3. Allow the surface to dry out until just damp again.
4. Apply a second coat of Boracol to refusal.
5. Coverage tends to vary somewhat but usage rates are normally 4 to 5 m²/litre.

Use a paint brush or a sprayer with a flat spray and paint the deck with Boracol. Never use a hard brush on the teak! Do the work on a dry day. If it rains too much, Boracol will be washed away. It does not matter if it is drizzling the next day but if it rains too much or if waves splash over the deck, the Boracol will have no effect having been washed off too quickly.

Boracol can be applied to a dry deck, but a slightly damp surface will aid penetration.

Please note there is not always a positive result immediately. On the contrary, the deck might look worse than it did before the treatment. After approximately ten days things will start to happen. The algae and mould will disappear leaving the deck clean and will not recur for some time.

Do not be afraid to repeat the treatment whenever you feel necessary. Most yachtsmen like to treat their decks with Boracol at the beginning and end of the season.

Boracol has no effect on the caulking (rubber) in the teak and also no effect on paint or gelcoat.

Did you know that you can also use Boracol on patios, decking, paths and walls!

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