

KiwiGrip Application

Preparation:

Always apply **KiwiGrip** over a completed and sealed surface finish. In the case of new construction, completely paint the boat to a finished stage. Mark out selected areas for the application of KiwiGrip with a soft pencil, using compass or calipers to mark curves.

Sand the selected areas to a flat finish using anywhere from 80 - 180 grit paper, paying particular attention to ensure an even, flat, surface is achieved — right up to the edge of the pencil mark. Remove dust.

Mask using 1" or slightly wider tape as close as possible to the pencil marks. Check to see that there are no glossy surfaces visible, particularly around the edge of the masking tape. If any shiny surfaces are present, ensure you sand carefully up to the edge of the masking tape. Remove dust.

When applying over existing antiskid surfaces no sanding or grinding is required. Abrade the selected surfaces thoroughly with a rotary green or red 3M scotch-type pad or wire brush, making sure all the peaks and valleys are well dulled off. Then scrub with a detergent based boat soap and water, allowing the surface to dry before masking and applying KiwiGrip. Do not use dish washing detergents as these products typically contain oils.

For best results, shake a full can of KiwiGrip on a commercial shaker. Alternatively, KiwiGrip can be carefully stirred at slow speed with a squirrel-cage mixer on a variable speed electric drill, or by hand with a broad paddle, to ensure product is fully uniform before applying. (NOTE: small granules of cured product suspended in the gel are a normal artifact of production. They are typically lost in the texture on application but may be removed with a finger-tip if offensive) Stirring rapidly or shaking a partial can will introduce small air bubbles which will become micro-craters in your finished surface. These small craters do no harm but make the surface a bit harder to keep clean.

Weather Conditions:

KiwiGrip will not cure properly in cold humid conditions. For best results, avoid temperatures below 50°F when the humidity or forecast humidity exceeds 75%. High temperatures and low humidity are fine conditions but limit your working time making it necessary to work quickly in pairs. If in doubt – run a test the day before or call us!!!

It is best to apply KiwiGrip in shady conditions, as this allows the coating and the roller to provide a more even finish. In direct sunlight or very hot conditions, the coating can dry too quickly, and the surface may be subjected to air pockets or craters. If this happens, either wait until it is more shady or thin a small amount of KiwiGrip with 20 - 25% water, and apply one thin coat over the whole surface by brush. This thin coat will fill up the craters but continue to provide an effective non-slip surface.

Application:

Choose a small section on the vessel for the first application of **KiwiGrip**. You will get better as you go, so to ensure an excellent outcome, have as much practice as is required on small sections before proceeding with the larger areas.

Work small areas at a time, starting with only a couple of square feet. Using a large brush or serrated trowel, apply a thick coating to the selected area. Apply at a rate of about one quart or liter per 20 square feet. Some customers have applied with a serrated trowel or broad putty knife with 1/8 inch (3mm) saw-teeth. These are commonly used for applying adhesive while wall-papering. This ensures a uniform film after rolling.

With your loopy-goopy roller, spread the coating to a visibly even distribution. Once that is achieved, lift the weight from the roller and glide it lightly and gently over the surface to dial in your texture and pop any bubbles that may be lurking under the "mountain peaks.

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Once the texture looks even and you are happy with the result, remove the masking tape. Removing the tape while the coating is wet allows the edges to roll over and create a nice-looking radius. If the coating sets up, you'll need a razor blade to remove the tape.

If you are not happy with the evenness or result, repeat the application but use less material on the second coat.

For a very slip resistant surface, allow the coating to partly dry and then back-roll over the surface. This will make the hills and hollows more pronounced.

Drying Time

Drying time is temperature and humidity dependent. We recommend applying only when surface, air and product temperature is 50° to 90° F (10° to 32° C). At 60F (10C) you'll have about 40 minutes working time before losing your "wet edge. Normally, drying is well advanced in an hour at 70° F (23° C). Allow at least 4 hours before recoating. High humidity will prolong drying time.

You can walk on your new decks without shoes the next day. The product will be tough but slightly rubbery in less than 48 hours and will reach final hardness in a few days.

Re-coating:

When maintenance or re-coating is required, remove all surface contaminants with boat soap to ensure the surface is completely clean. No sanding is required - you simply need to apply the coating as you have done previously. If you are careful with the brush and roller, it does not require any further masking. If you are uncertain of your technique, re-mask the surface to the edge of the previous KiwiGrip coating and then proceed.

Clean Up:

Wash tools and equipment with soap and water while material is fresh.

After full cure (a few days) scrub your new decks with fresh water to remove a soap-like component that migrates to the surface of your KiwiGrip.