

KiwiGrip, an Easy Nonskid Solution

Reader Brian Gruel used Interlux Brightside topside paint and KiwiGrip, a water-based nonskid compound, to recoat the previously painted decks on his Tartan 27 last year. Although *PS* recommends using a two-part epoxy primer and linear polyurethane paint for more durable results, Gruel stuck with one-part products. He is so far pleased with his results, one that saved him from having to make a number of gelcoat repairs.

He provided this step-by-step guide to the process:

- Pressure wash and scrape everything to remove loose paint;
- Sand with an orbital sander (hand sand in tight spaces) once coarsely with 100-grit paper;
- Tape off surfaces not to be painted;
- Wipe down, using recommended thinner or solvent;
- Prime and allow to dry;
- Wipe down with recommended thinner or solvent;
- Apply one coat of Interlux Brightside

- and allow to dry;
- Wipe down, then paint second coat of Brightside and allow it to dry for a week;
- Use 3M blue masking tape to tape edges;
- Wipe down with acetone (to get dust, oil, etc);
- Use putty knife to deposit goop of KiwiGrip and a special roller to spread it out, paying particular attention to edges;
- Immediately remove tape after application;
- Check for missed spots and fix;
- Check for “stray” KiwiGrip and remove immediately. (It is PERMANENT once adhered and can only be removed by destructive methods such as scraping and grinding.);
- Varying pressure and speed will increase or decrease the spread and thickness of the KiwiGrip;
- Wash up roller. It’s messy, so don’t do it at the dock. It is non-toxic and water cleanup.



Brian Gruel admires the new KiwiGrip on his Tartan 27.

APPLICATION TIPS:

- Humidity and temperature play a role in how the acrylic KiwiGrip cures.
- Do not apply if weather is cooling and it’s humid: The water has to evaporate out of the acrylic, and it won’t do this if it is getting colder and already humid.
- According to Gruel, KiwiGrip provides fantastic support and will walk you through the challenging spots.