

## PRODUCT NEWS

# Where's Optima Bottom Paint?



*Optima's two-part formula set it apart from other paints.*

A couple of readers have reported that they have had trouble finding Interlux Micron Optima, one of our top-rated antifouling paints in previous tests, including the most recent one (October 2007). Unfortunately, Micron Optima has been discontinued. According to Interlux, the Optima never caught on with consumers. Jim Seidel of Interlux cited several possible reasons for this: First, it is a water-based paint, and some had difficulty accepting the idea of a water-based antifoulant. Secondly, because it is a two-part paint, it may have been seen as too complicated. Third, it was expensive (\$200 per

gallon). Optima is still available at some Interlux sales outlets, a list of which is available at the Interlux website, [www.yachtpaint.com](http://www.yachtpaint.com). Boat bottoms that have been previously painted with Micron Optima can be safely overcoated with many of the other top-rated products featured in our October issue. Check with manufacturers regarding compatibility. In most cases, prep work is minimal.

In response to the growing interest in water-based paints, PS will be conducting a new series of real-world head-to-head tests of these products.