

Application Instructions

GELCOAT BONDING LOTION · SPIDER REPELLENT

Hi, and thanks for the trust you're giving in purchasing this product. Allow me to give you a very detailed set of instructions on how to use it so that you don't screw up my reputation. That's a little joke — and if you've ever seen any of my videos on YouTube, it's kind of my sense of humor.

01 WHAT THIS IS FOR — AND WHAT IT ISN'T

T'sillan BDG is designed specifically for gelcoat. RV, boat, or even a shower fixture — but only gelcoat. If you're using this on automotive paint or marine paint, contact me through the website or YouTube and I'll suggest a more appropriate product for your application.

DESIGNED FOR

- White gelcoat, properly prepped
- Brand-new gelcoat, no oxidation
- Freshly compounded / polished gelcoat
- Surfaces with a spider problem

NOT DESIGNED FOR

- Repairing or improving oxidized gelcoat
- Automotive or marine paint
- Replacing a proper cut-and-polish step

If you've got oxidation, fuzziness, or surface damage, fix that *before* applying this. The product will still bond and last a long time on dull-but-clean gelcoat, but it isn't designed to correct anything underneath it.

If you're not sure what gelcoat that's ready for T'sillan BDG looks like — or how to compound it to that point — here's a walkthrough: youtu.be/RyAxm7VIWZ0. There are over 400 more correction tutorials on the Local boydidgood channel.

— LEE

02 PREP THE SURFACE

“Properly prepped” is a little arbitrary — everyone has their own standard. In my mind it should look brand new: wet-paint smooth and shiny, with a clean reflection at *any* angle, like a mirror. A reflection that only shows up at 45° is the rank-amateur threshold; aim higher. Prep matters more than the product.

Once the gelcoat is clean — washed with soap and water to remove any oils left by previous polishing — and looking right, you're ready to start. Almost.

03 MASK OFF

The product tends to dry white. If you're working near darker canvas, pull it back out of the way, or mask off the panels to avoid contact. Tape off black molding, window trim, and any fittings or accessories sitting on the gelcoat. Dried-on product is harder to remove from those surfaces than from the gelcoat itself.

Keep it off wood, concrete, and other very absorbent materials too — anything porous you don't want to risk discoloring.

04 APPLY — BY MACHINE (PREFERRED)

Tools: a soft foam applicator pad, a random orbital or dual-action polisher (I co-designed the DeWalt DWP849X with DeWalt and SMD — that's the one), and a clean microfiber or fresh foam pad for removal.

Your applicator needs to be soft enough that if you wiped it near a baby's face, the baby wouldn't care or make any sort of indication that it was abrasive. That soft.

— LEE

Always spread the product with an applicator — don't drip it straight onto the boat and smear it around. That matters most on darker gelcoat.

1. **Speed: very slow.** There's no need to force this. You're massaging the product in like a lotion, not muscling it on like a wax.
2. **Draw a circle of product on the pad** — not at the edge, not in the middle. A ring. On a fresh, dry pad, lay down two rings — one toward the middle, one between that and the edge — because a new pad soaks up product for the first few applications. Once it's broken in, you'll use noticeably less.
3. **Shake the bottle well, often.** Then shake it again.
4. **Work it in like you're shoving the product into the pores of a sponge.** The random orbital pattern makes many small circles — mathematically, more chances to fill more pores than back-and-forth motion. (Plus it makes nice patterns on the boat, which I've always found entertaining.) Here's a clip of what those gelcoat pores actually look like: youtu.be/WfF1fth9b9k.
5. **Stop when the product is just barely visible on the surface.** The longer you work it in, the better the bond — the oils need time to absorb into the gelcoat itself.
6. **Buff off the residue with a clean microfiber or fresh foam pad.** There's no "baking time." The layer left behind after the oils absorb is the bonding chemistry — it begins setting on contact. (A foam pad on the buffer throws a little dust here — it wipes off, or hose it down with an in-line water filter and skip drying.)

A foam applicator keeps. Drop it in a plastic bag between sessions and it's good for days — which also means it uses less product over time.

— LEE

05 APPLY — BY HAND (ALTERNATIVE)

No buffer? A folded white terrycloth towel works. *Not* microfiber for application — microfiber glides too much. The loops of terrycloth act as mild abrasives that help scrub the lotion into the surface as you apply it.

Draw an “X” of product across the rag, spread it out, and work it in. Slower than the machine method, and you won't quite get the same finish, but it works. Terrycloth also absorbs more product than a foam pad does, so you'll go through the bottle faster.

Waste as much as you like — we have more.

— LEE

06 SECTION SIZE AND CONDITIONS

Start small. Hot day, dark-colored gelcoat, or direct sunlight — work smaller sections at a time to avoid the product over-drying before you've buffed it. As you get a feel for your boat's absorption rate and your local conditions, you can grow the working area.

Every boat lived a different life before you got it — even two of the same model age differently — so there's no universal section size. Start where you can stay in control and grow into it.

If the product does dry on you before you've buffed it: apply a small amount of fresh product to your applicator, re-wet the dried area, and buff quickly with a clean microfiber. If that doesn't lift it, a little saliva does the trick.

That's not my weird sense of humor. That actually is a thing that I do.

— LEE

07 MAINTENANCE

Maintaining the bond is mostly about not letting dirt bake in. Wash regularly with mild, gelcoat-safe soaps — anything that won't strip wax. Soaps that *add* a film of protection are better still: Salt-a-way as an additive is worth its weight even if you don't play in saltwater, and a few Turtle Wax soaps leave a protective film behind.

Avoid washes that contain carnauba — carnauba waxes can interfere with the bonded surface over time.

You'll notice the surface picks up far fewer fingerprints than a traditional wax leaves. That's the bonding chemistry doing its work — it should feel *set*, not slick.

08 REAPPLICATION

On the spider side, the effect is meaningful for about **3–4 months per coat**. The bonded surface itself lasts much longer — I've seen it hold up under proper maintenance for over three years exposed.

You can reapply over an existing application at any time — you won't hurt the product, the boat, or the RV by doing so. A little extra at the helm every five months never hurt anyone. Reapplication uses less product than the first coat.

09 A NOTE ON THE CHEMISTRY, AND THE SPIDERS

The effect on spiders in this product is intentional. I chose chemistry that *moves* spiders rather than kills them — for moral reasons more than anything. Harsher chemicals could have negative side effects in not only your marina but mine. If by some miracle a spider finds its way to your neighbor's boat, that's just awesome.

Gelcoat as a material is constantly curing — like glass in old cathedrals, it's still considered a semi-solid liquid. The pores on the inside expand as it ages, which is why no amount of insulation from sun and ultraviolet light can keep gelcoat from eventually fading on its own. The struggle is legitimate and real.

I made this to give you a little leverage in that battle. But it does take work.

— LEE · LOCAL BOYDIDGOOD

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