

Sodablast

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CHOOSING A METHOD OF ANTIFOUL removal is one of the toughest decisions boat owners have to make. Why? Until recently options have been limited to strenuous methods including sanding, scraping and grinding. All of these methods have the potential to damage the boats hull, but one way or another the antifoul still has to come off.

Sodablast, a revolutionary new hull cleaning and antifoul removal technology uses a stream of eco-friendly bicarbonate of soda (food grade baking soda) and compressed air to remove the antifoul, bottom paint or contaminants without damaging the hull. In fact, baking soda was chosen to restore the Statue of Liberty because of its ability to clean without destroying the integrity of the underlying surface. This is exactly the same reason it is so perfect for boats.

It is the fine granules of the soda that make sodablasting different to any other stripping method. Due to its brittle nature, when driven into the surface to be treated, the soda fractures creating energy which displaces the antifoul whilst leaving the gel coat intact. Sodablast is so gentle and controllable that you can even strip the hull layer by layer. Sodablast can even treat wooden hulls that are usually much too soft for more aggressive blasting methods.

By removing the old antifoul with Sodablast prior to recoating, a number of problems are avoided. The Sodablast process ensures your hull is perfectly clean before the next application of antifoul. Aside from the fact that this ensures perfect adhesion of the new coat, the chances of osmosis occurring are significantly reduced as multiple layers of antifoul

will no longer trap water and hide blisters. Finally not having to carry multiple layers of antifoul, the performance and fuel efficiency are increased dramatically.

Boat owners want their boats in the water, not on the hard stand. Sodablast, being Australia's largest antifoul removal specialists with over 23 mobile units around the country are able to complete your boat more efficiently than anyone else using comparable methods. Being mobile they are also able to travel to different destinations for your convenience.

Boat owners are not the only ones that struggle with antifoul removal. Boat yards and marinas must also contend with the problem as environmental protection has become a number one priority for all boat yards and marinas. Baking soda is non-toxic, non-hazardous, and is friendly to both the Sodablast machine operator and the environment. For this reason, boat yards and marinas find Sodablast to be a perfect solution as an eco-friendly way of antifoul removal. A plastic tent is masked around the hull of the boat. The tent contains all contaminants and leaves the top side and any neighbour's vessels unexposed to the blasting area. As no water is used in the process the removed antifoul is easily collected and safely disposed following EPA regulations. Boat surveyors, working on behalf of prospective boat buyers, have relied on Sodablast to pinpoint problems that could otherwise have been overlooked.

Sodablast have over 20 operators nationally including Toowoomba, Townsville, Mackay, Emerald, Rockhampton, Sunshine Coast, Gold Coast, Canberra, South Coast NSW, Sydney, North Coast NSW, Dubbo, Victoria, Naracoorte, Perth and Tasmania and are widely recognised as the new solution for antifoul removal. Sodablast can be contacted on their toll free hotline 1800-Sodablast (763225) or visit their website at www.sodablast.com.au



Here you can see how the hull has been tented. Dust extractors are also added in order to increase vision for the operators and eliminate any leakage of contaminants. (left) Here you can see the boat hull before and after Sodablasting. See how Sodablast leaves the gel coat fully intact. (above)