



Recreational Vehicle Care and Maintenance



GENERAL



Regular care and maintenance of your composite exterior is essentially the same as for an automobile.

The exterior surface of composite exterior is a high quality gelcoat. Gelcoat is available in many colors and is very durable, but it can become dull or faded as it weathers. Sunlight, heat and moist air combine to oxidize the gelcoat surface, fading it and making the surface cloudy.

So how do you keep your composite exterior looking good? Depending upon the frequency of exposure to the elements, maintenance of the composite exterior can be as little as every 6 months to as often as every 3 months or less, if the vehicle is kept out in the elements under constant exposure. It is essential to wash it often and wax it periodically, as doing so will ensure that it will remain like new for many years. **Failure to perform these simple maintenance tasks may result in surface deterioration over time.**



KEEP IT CLEAN



Wash the exterior of your RV at least monthly using a mild liquid detergent. Avoid cleaners that are abrasive, caustic (highly alkaline or high pH) or those cleaners containing ammonia. Caustic cleaners can cause discoloration and loss of gloss and repeated use may cause cracking and reduced UV resistance. Also, avoid dirty or gritty brushes. Remove tar, bugs, sap, and bird droppings as soon as possible to prevent staining. If using a tar and insect remover product, test a small area to be sure it is safe for use on composites.

To remove a light stain that does not wash off, first try additional washing. Next, try cleaning with an appropriate solvent, again test on an inconspicuous area. For severe stains, it may be necessary to use an abrasive cleaner, starting with a fine rubbing compound. If the stain still exists, sand lightly with 800 grit sandpaper, followed by rubbing compound and wax. RV accessory stores carry many cleaning supplies that are specially formulated for cleaning RV exteriors.

Always read labels carefully and follow label directions.



KEEP IT SHINY



The original luster of your composite exterior will be preserved by a good wax job once or twice a year. Waxing regularly will also reduce surface deterioration caused by air pollutants, prolonged sunlight, and moisture. Use a good liquid or paste wax, such as an automotive cleaner or wax/polishes, developed for use on fiberglass boats, showers, and tubs. Follow the directions on the package. Do not wash and wax your RV in direct sunlight.

Storing conditions are very important. Indoor storage is ideal. Alternatively, outdoor storage out of direct sunlight and away from tree and bird droppings is recommended. Various covers are available at RV accessory dealers. Avoid covers that trap moisture. Prolonged exposure to trapped water may cause blushing, especially in darker colors.

If the surface has been allowed to weather badly, and cleaning and wax polishing does not restore the finish satisfactorily, then compounding will be necessary. Polishing compound (fine abrasive) or rubbing compound (coarser abrasive) is recommended for use on fiberglass RVs to remove scratches, stains, or a severely weathered surface. Polishing or rubbing compound can be applied by hand or by mechanical means, such as an electrical or pneumatic buffer. After the scratched, stained or weathered surface has been removed, it should be waxed to enhance the gloss and color while providing a seal to retard staining or new soil accumulation.

KEEP IT REPAIRED

Scratches are the most common damage an RV suffers. Many of these can be removed with rubbing compound, followed by wax. Major repairs should be referred to a professional.



Before Waxing



After Waxing

KEEP IT SEALED

A water tight seal is necessary to maintain the integrity of the composite wall system. Follow the RV manufacturer's guidelines. Damage caused by moisture in the RV wall will void any warranty..

RESTORING GLOSS

Materials

- Mild detergent
- Soft cotton cloth
- Turtle Wax® Rubbing Compound Heavy Duty Cleaner
- Turtle Wax® Polishing Compound (for buffer use only)
- Mechanical buffer (optional)
- Turtle Wax® Super Hand Shell Car Wax Paste

Procedure

1. Wash the Crane Composites RV panel with a mild detergent and water.
2. Dry the Crane Composites RV panel with a clean, soft cotton cloth.
3. Apply heavy duty cleaner by following the directions on the container. (If a buffer is available, substitute polishing compound for heavy duty cleaner and buff polishing compound lightly).
4. Wash the Crane Composites RV panel with water and dry the surface.
5. Apply car wax paste per directions.



Crane Composites sidewalls vary by model and it is difficult to determine which panel was used. Please contact your manufacturer's Warranty Department for warranty claims.

If you have any questions or need additional assistance, please do not hesitate to contact the Crane Composites Customer Care Department at 1.815.467.8600

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Crane Composites is the manufacturer of Noble, Filon and a variety of other fiberglass reinforced plastic (frp) composite panels. Crane Composites has over 55 years of experience and is the recognized industry leader in FRP applications.

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