

Fiberglass RV Panel Care & Maintenance Guide

A Note Before You Begin

These maintenance tips apply exclusively to Polser USA Fiberglass Panels. If you're unsure about the manufacturer of your RV's sidewalls, reach out to the original RV manufacturer to confirm before proceeding.

Your RV's Exterior: Beauty Meets Durability

The outer shell of your RV is coated with a premium gel coat, providing both strength and style. While this finish is long-lasting, exposure to sun, heat, and moisture can lead to oxidation, causing fading and a cloudy appearance—especially with darker colors. The good news? With the right care, you can keep your RV looking fresh and glossy for years.

Mastering the Art of Maintenance

Your maintenance schedule depends on your RV's exposure to the elements:

- Parked outdoors year-round? Plan on a deep clean and wax every 3 months or less.
- Occasional exposure? A thorough cleaning and waxing every 6 months should suffice.

Skipping regular maintenance can lead to surface degradation, so don't let dirt, sun, and oxidation steal your RV's shine!

Keep It Clean: The Right Way to Wash

Dirt and grime are inevitable, but regular washing prevents staining, dullness, and long-term damage. Follow these golden rules for a spotless exterior:

- ✓ Wash at least once a month using a mild liquid detergent.
- ✗ Avoid harsh cleaners—anything abrasive, ammonia-based, or highly alkaline can strip the finish, cause discoloration, and even create micro-cracks over time.
- ✓ Use soft brushes and cloths to prevent scratching.
- ✗ Don't let stains sit! Remove tar, bug splatter, tree sap, and bird droppings immediately to avoid permanent marks.
- ✓ Test cleaning products on a small, hidden area before full use—especially tar and insect removers.

Dealing With Stubborn Stains

Even with proper washing, some stains won't budge. Here's how to handle them:

1. Try washing again with soap and water.
2. If the stain persists, use a gentle solvent, testing it in an inconspicuous area first.
3. For tougher stains, use Mirka-Polar-Shine 35 buffing compound, followed by Mirka-Polar-Shine 8/10 polishing compound to bring back the shine.
4. Still not gone? Lightly sand with 800-grit sandpaper, then repeat the buffing and polishing steps.
5. Finish with a microfiber cloth for a final polish.

Keeping the Shine: Storage & Protection

Proper storage is just as important as regular cleaning:

- Best Option: Store your RV indoors to shield it from sun and environmental damage.
- If outdoors, choose a shaded area away from tree sap, bird droppings, and constant direct sunlight.
- Use a breathable cover—one that allows airflow to prevent trapped moisture, which can cause discoloration and blushing (especially in darker colors).
- Rotate your RV occasionally so that all sides receive equal exposure to sunlight—uneven UV exposure can cause patchy fading.

Bringing Back the Gloss

If the surface has already faded or weathered, you can restore its shine with a little elbow grease:

- If cleaning and waxing aren't enough, use a fine polishing compound or a rubbing compound (coarser for deeper oxidation).
- Apply by hand or with a power buffer to remove scratches, stains, and dullness.
- Seal the shine with a quality wax, which not only enhances color and gloss but also provides a protective barrier against dirt and stains.

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Extra Care Tips

Fixing Scratches: Small vs. Big Repairs

Scratches are a part of RV life, but they don't have to be permanent!

- Minor scratches? Use rubbing compound, followed by a wax application.
- Deep scratches or cracks? It's best to consult a professional repair service to avoid further damage.

Sealing for Protection

A watertight seal is essential to maintaining your RV's structural integrity.

- Regularly inspect the seals and follow your manufacturer's sealing recommendations.
- Water damage caused by improper sealing can void your warranty, so don't overlook this step!

Step-by-Step Gloss Restoration Guide

What You'll Need

- ✓ Meguiar's #49 Heavy Duty Oxidation Remover
- ✓ Meguiar's #50 Boat & RV Cleaner Wax Liquid (or mild detergent & water)
- ✓ Meguiar's #56 Boat & RV Pure Wax
- ✓ Mirka-Polar-Shine 35 Buffing Compound
- ✓ Mirka-Polar-Shine 8 or 10 Polishing Compound
- ✓ Microfiber cloths
- ✓ Velcro-backed buffing/cutting and polishing pads (7½" x 1½")
- ✓ Soft cotton cloths
- ✓ Power buffer (optional, but helpful)

How to Restore the Shine

1. Wash your RV's exterior with a mild detergent and water.
2. Dry completely with a soft cotton cloth.
3. Apply heavy-duty cleaner, following the instructions on the product label.
 - Using a buffer? Substitute polishing compound instead of oxidation remover.
4. Rinse thoroughly and dry again.
5. Apply wax, following the recommended directions to seal in the shine.

The Takeaway: Protect Your Investment

A little regular maintenance goes a long way in keeping your fiberglass RV looking sleek and polished for years to come. By following these steps, you'll extend the life of your exterior, maintain its value, and keep it turning heads on the road!