



March 2018

INFORMATION GUIDE

REFURBISHING FIBREGLASS SHOWER FLOORS

This area contains the same problems as repainting a bath. After years of continuous use, body fats, oils and soaps become embedded into the surface which is now quite porous due to aging of the fibreglass matrix.

Removal of these contaminants can cause a problem with adhesion unless the preparation is done with diligence. Secondly, the selection of paint is also important. All single pack paints (or clears) are air dried and are only water resistant, **not waterproof**. If they are used, the continuous wetting, lack of ventilation, steam etc. will cause the paints to soften and breakdown.

Also they will allow mould to develop and adhere with comparative ease. Using aggressive cleaning agents will only exacerbate the problem.

Therefore, our recommendation is to use **NORTHANE**, which is one of the few on the market that is **totally waterproof** in the cured film. **NORTHANE** will not allow bacterial matter into the cured paint, making it perfectly safe for eating surfaces, laboratory bench tops, fish ponds and so on.

Now to the preparation.

Apply a good domestic cleaning agent, like **JIF**. Wet the surface and squirt it on, and scrub vigorously with a stiff nylon brush. Rinse off and repeat this process **at least 2 more times**. Allow to dry, and lightly sand with a medium grit sandpaper around a cork block. If the whole shower area is to be done follow the same preparation all over.

Next, vacuum up the sanded dust, so that the loose particles are not clogging up the porous pores, and mask up all fittings and edges. If only the base is to be done, mask up an area about 150mm (6 inches) up from the floor. Clean with Norclean-Plus just prior to painting to remove and remaining contaminants.

Prime using SHIPSHAPE PRIMER UNDERCOAT, let it cure for 24 hours, lightly sand, clean with NORCLEAN PLUS and then you can apply the NORTHANE.

Colour Selection

NORTHANE coverage is approximately 5 sq. metres per mixed 500 ml pack, and if putting white over a white (or off-white background) then one coat will be sufficient.

However if a contrasting colour is chosen, 2 coats may be required. NORTHANE comes in 16 standard colours plus black and white. All colours can be intermixed to obtain additional shades.

Application

If doing the walls as well, use a good quality mohair paint roller, and wear socks (**not bare feet**) because the body oils from the soles will reduce the adhesion.

Where only the base is to be coated, use a 75mm (3 inch) brush. Prior to mixing the paint, have on hand, a flat piece of wood or steel trowel, cotton gloves, and a bag of sugar or salt crystals (5-10 kg), and some NORTHANE BRUSHING THINNERS for clean-up. It is usually more practical to dispose of the roller sleeve and brush rather than attempting to clean them.

After the shower base has been coated and whilst still wet, broadcast the sugar or salt all over until a complete coverage is obtained. Then pat, (tamp down) with the trowel or wood into the coating, and allow to cure for a minimum of 48 hours. Then pour a jug of boiling water over the surface to dissolve the sugar or salt.

The finished result will be a textured uniform non-slip surface.

The reason for this may not seem obvious, but if just left as a smooth finish the surface will be as slippery as a skating rink, when wet.

Other surfaces can be painted in the same manner but may require pre-treating with SHIPSHAPE-PRIMER UNDERCOAT, or as specified on the NORGLASS SURFACE INFORMATION GUIDES.

To locate these products go to our website www.norglass.com.au and enter your postcode for your local stockists.

