

Product Evaluation: **Protect All**

Appearance accounts for a great deal in an RV, when it's clean and shiny it even seems to run better. But on my fiberglass body, six year old motorhome I was fighting a losing battle in that department. No matter how hard I worked the shine would not last. Even the shine itself was less than I expected for the work I put in.

This past summer I was at the factory having some mechanical work done and I asked them if they could restore the NEW look to the body. After much close scrutiny, some rubbing, and shaking of heads the body shop people came up with a unanimous opinion - Paint it. Now, you're talking big bucks for that.

I used Protect All to get that brilliance but there's more to the story. I began by spraying it on a small section, wiping it to spread it evenly, and immediately rubbing it off with a polishing rag. Well, where was the shine? — another product that has wild claims but no actual performance. I was disappointed again. I tried another section with the same results and then, because all else had failed, I read the directions. Before first application, clean vehicle thoroughly — that's what they said, but I had washed the section I was working on and there was no dirt or road grime. It was cleaned thoroughly, right? Wrong! Some times we read what we want to read. What that simple statement really meant is "clean all oxidation from the vehicle."

Now I didn't figure that out but when I called the factory to complain they patiently explained that Protect All is not a cleaner or a rubbing compound, it is a protective coat that is applied to a clean oxidation free painted or gel coated surface; so I tried again.

Fiberglass is especially susceptible to oxidation. A painted aluminum siding on a trailer may retain it's shine for years, but fiberglass will fade within months, especially if it's exposed to direct sunlight. The problem with my motorhome was severe oxidation.

There is no easy way to remove it, it must be rubbed off with a cutting compound. In some cases this can be done with a power buffer, but unless you are experienced with this procedure you can cause irreparable damage to the finish. The safest way is to do the job by hand. It is not easy and will take hours of hard work, but the results are worth it.

I did a small section at a time, about one foot square, and when all the oxidation had been removed I started on the next section. After completing about 20 square feet I then applied the Protect All — and when you do that you'll be amply rewarded for all of your hard work, and the hard work that still lies ahead before the job is finished.

A word of caution is in order. If you don't thoroughly remove the oxidation the results will not be satisfactory. In the Protect All literature, that comes when you buy it by the box, it states that it will remove light oxidation. I did not find that to be the case. When I tried some on my car, over areas of light oxidation I did get a shine but if you want **brilliance** remove all of the oxidation with rubbing compound first.

Applying Protect All is easy; just spray it on, wipe with a small terry cloth to spread it evenly and then immediately rub it off with a clean polish rag. It doesn't take much; if you find smearing or streaking you have used too much.

I found Protect All did a superior job on aluminum awning bars and window frames. It made the tires look good, but don't try it over dirty tires, wash them first.

I have tried at least a dozen cleaners, polishes, and glazes on my motorhome including taking it to a top detail shop for a professional job. Nothing gave the brilliance that Protect All did. U.V.

blockers have now been added which should make the luster last, but subsequent applications are easier than a full blown wash job, so keeping that luster is not a real chore.

If you have a new unit give it the Protect All treatment **before** oxidation begins to form on the surface. The manufacturer suggests reapplication about three or four times a year. After several applications there will be a build-up adding greater protection. Protect All is available in most RV supply stores and at Camping World. Try it, you'll like it.