

Attention to Detail

Protect All's Fiberglass Oxidation Remover and Color Restorer is a one-step application that cleans, polishes and seals.

Next to a home, a recreational vehicle is the biggest investment most people are likely to make. And, like a home, an RV requires constant care and maintenance to make sure it retains its beauty and functionality for years to come.

An obvious sign of RV wear and tear is an oxidized fiberglass gelcoat. Most of us simply don't have the resources or space to keep an RV stored indoors, or even under a large canopy, so the majority of the time it sits outside, exposed to the elements. Even when a cover is used, the cumulative effects of the sun eventually wear on the RV's finish until it starts to take on a dull, chalky appearance. If left unattended, the finish will eventually deteriorate to the point of being permanently damaged.

If your RV has lost some of its shine, Protect All offers a product that can help restore the finish. Simply named Fiberglass Oxidation Remover and Color Restorer, this product is designed to remove light-to-medium oxidation, hard-water spots, wax buildup, bug stains and small surface scratches, leaving a smooth, protective shine. A 32-ounce bottle of Fiberglass Oxidation Remover and Color Restorer retails for \$18.

Protect All points out that oxidized finishes which have been left untreated may permanently fade, requiring professional preparation or repainting. If that turns out to be the case on your RV and Protect All doesn't work for you, simply return the product along with your sales receipt to Protect All, and the company will provide a full refund. Now, that's a no-lose situation.

To test the capabilities of Protect All's Fiberglass Oxidation Remover and Color Restorer, we used it on two different vehicles: The severely oxidized finish of a fiberglass truck shell and the moderately oxidized finish of a Class A motorhome with fiberglass exterior walls.

Protect All recommends applying the product to a clean, soft cloth and then polishing the surface in a circular, overlapping motion. Testing the bed shell first, we found that the product removed the roughness within a few strokes and removed a disturbing amount of dirt from the finish. When touched, the area felt noticeably smoother, and when viewed from the side, it was easy to see that the product had brought back some of gelcoat's sheen. The color, however, was too faded to be restored, so we moved on to our motorhome.

The white gelcoat side walls were easily brought back to a brilliant shine, but the difference was very hard to photograph on a white background. So, we then polished one of the lower fiberglass baggage doors, which are a light-blue color. As with the truck camper, the Protect All product removed an awful lot of dirt from the finish and brought back some of its sheen, but the color was not significantly restored. Although the finish certainly looked better, the original color would only come back here (like the shell we tested) by spraying new gelcoat or body paint.

Judging from our experience, Protect All Fiberglass Oxidation Remover and Color Restorer is a good first step toward restoring your coach's finish, but it can't work miracles on surfaces that have not been maintained properly. It removes the roughness, oxidation and dirt, leaving a clean, smooth surface, which can then be treated to a coat of wax. Protect All also offers a product called [Protect All] Polish, Wax and Treatment with ultraviolet blocker (\$25 for a 32-ounce bottle), which can help protect the surface after all of your hard work.

Nobody enjoys rubbing out an RV's finish, but Protect All's fiberglass products make the job straightforward and help keep the finish looking good. TL