

# BoatWorks™

THE MUST-HAVE MAGAZINE FOR THE HANDS-ON SAILOR

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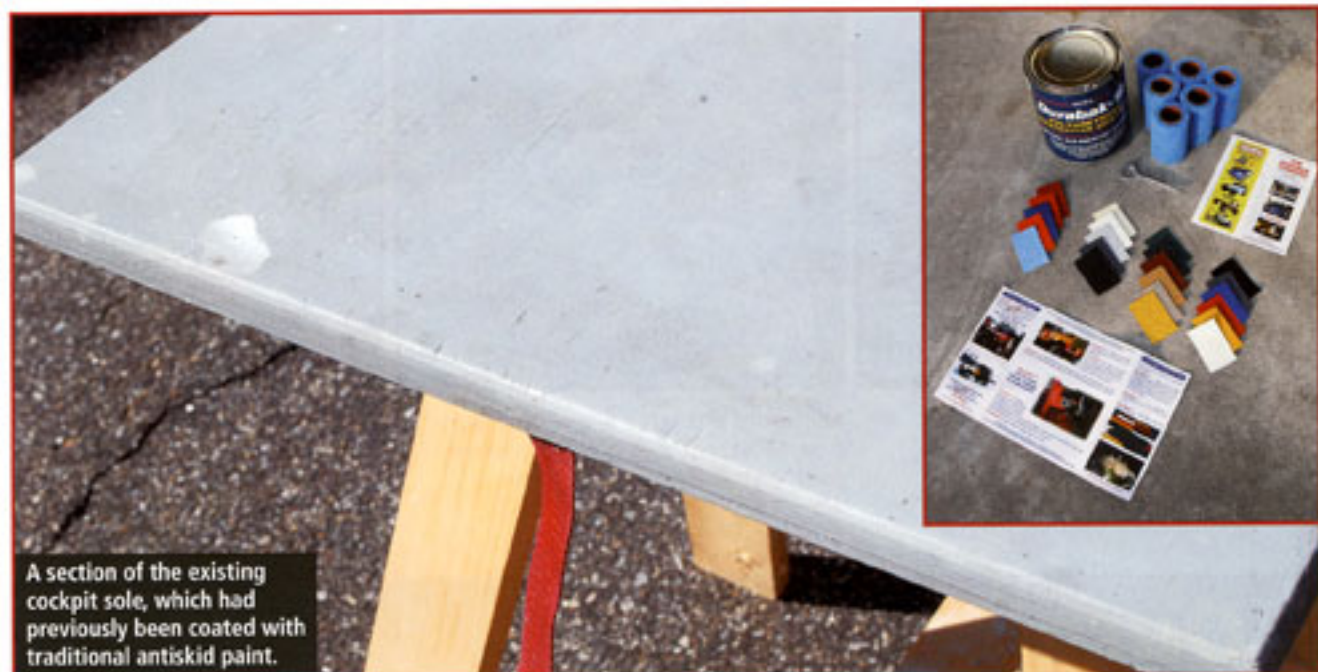


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## Not Slippery When Wet

Putting new antiskid on worn decks just got a little easier, according to the maker of Durabak. **Mark Corke** puts the claim to the test

**A**s someone who has owned several boats, I've often wondered what the best deck coating might be. Fiberglass boats often have an antiskid pattern molded into the gelcoat, but this eventually wears down and loses its grip. Teak is great and lasts a long time, but retrofitting a teak deck is not for the faint of heart or shallow of pocket; moreover, it adds a fair bit of weight well above the waterline. It's no surprise, then, that most DIYers choose to use paint when restoring an old deck's antiskid finish. Deck paint with sand or other granules in it is not a new concept, of course.

I recently tested Durabak, a one-part flexible polyurethane coating with rubber granules. It has a high solids content and after application dries with an attractive stippled finish. Durabak comes with special

foam rollers, though it can also be sprayed or brushed on. Various colors are available (I chose the light gray).

Application is straightforward and requires an initial wipe-down with xylene. Durabak must be mixed thoroughly; because of its high solids content, an electric drill with a power stirrer works best. Then you just roll it on. Coverage is excellent, though applying two coats works best. The second coat can be applied when the first is still touch-dry—in as little as one hour. According to the manufacturer, one quart is sufficient to cover 15 square feet; my experience is that this appears to be realistic.

After 24 hours the surface can be walked on; I found it extremely unslippery, no matter what shoes I wore. The finished coating seems soft, so walking on it in bare feet isn't a problem. As with any antiskid, Durabak is something of a dirt magnet, so it will require regular cleanings with a deck scrubber. Otherwise, it appears to offer everything a boatowner could want; it's an easy-to-apply finish with great antiskid properties and requires no special equipment to apply except the disposable rollers. ■

[www.durabakcompany.com](http://www.durabakcompany.com) 303-690-7190



A roller and tray, the paint, and a mechanical paint stirrer are all the tools you need to apply Durabak.



Application is simply a matter of rolling it on. Because of the high solids content, you have to reload the roller often.



The color is similar to the deck's original gray paint. Other colors include black, green, red, orange, sand, white, tan, dark and light blue, and battleship grey.

## Durabak... it lets you walk on water

Specially Formulated Polyurethane  
non-skid protective coating

- Slip and fall protection.
- Protects against rust and other damage.
- Give & comfort that no other non-slip coating offers.
- Just "paint it on" with a roller.
- Resistant to saltwater, fuels and chemicals
- Bonds to metals, wood, fiberglass & concrete.
- Available in a variety of colors, textured & smooth
  - Won't crack, chip or peel
  - Also great for truck beds & boat trailers

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