

# Aluminum Care & Maintenance

You've purchased a quality Freeman product. Proper care and maintenance will ensure optimal performance.

Aluminum exhibits excellent corrosion resistance characteristics, however, marine grade alloy aluminum is not entirely maintenance free.

## **Oxidation:**

Aluminum oxidizes as a means of self-protection. While unsightly, many times oxidation is relatively harmless in the short-term. If oxidation has started and appearance of the metal is important to you, a deoxidant may be appropriate.

Aluminum is normally cleaned with a deoxidant prior to application of undercoats such as chromates or primers. A good source for an aluminum metal cleaner is a paint supplier specializing in aluminum painting.

The main ingredient in this type of cleaner is usually phosphoric acid. It is usually supplied either in powder or liquid form, and is usually highly concentrated. While the stronger concentrate works well on the surface of the metal, special care during its use must be taken to avoid contact and injury. Carefully follow the cleaner manufacturer's instructions. Proper use of

a deoxidant normally results in a soft and nearly-white appearance. An annual washdown is usually suitable, but this is a matter of preference and application.

## **More Serious Problems:**

Many times when corrosion first appears, it is a warning of problems in the cathodic protection system in your boat. Specialists should be consulted immediately. An indication is observed when inspecting your vessel's zinc anodes during routine maintenance. It is normal that zincs would need to be replaced annually. Zincs that do not corrode are not working properly, and chances are that corrosion has been transferred to another part of the boat. This sometimes shows in the aluminum or other metal components. If you suspect a problem related to the cathodic protection system in your boat, contact your boatbuilder or local repair yard as soon as possible.

For additional information, contact Freeman Marine at 1.800.770.0455 or via email at info@advantecglobal.com.