

Surface Preparation on Fiberglass Runabouts

Major amusement park used Sponge-Jet® Sponge Blasting™ System to remove multi-layered, marine epoxy coating from delicate fiberglass runabout boats



An amusement park needed to strip and repaint selected runabouts. Subject to harsh sun and the marine environment, the runabouts were removed from water, stripped, painted and promptly returned to service. Maintenance personnel chose to test the Sponge Blasting System to strip 20 to 40-mil of marine epoxy from the boats, creating a less-than-one mil profile and causing no further damage to the sensitive gel-coat base.

The decision to strip the 40 square foot [13m²] runabouts using Sponge Media™ abra-

sives, with 40-60 Plastic Urea was determined after the following specifications were satisfied:

- **Low Rebound** - Blasting would occur in close proximity to the nearby lake, thus requiring low media ricochet or rebound. Pliant Sponge Media abrasives absorb collision energy, lowering media bounce-back.
- **Versatile** - The process would be aggressive enough to remove multiple layers of marine coating and sensitive enough to cause no further damage to the gel-coat fiberglass substrate. Sponge Media abrasive's pliant, sponge-like material and abrasive components allow operators to selectively strip coatings and control profiling - unlike other conventional abrasives.
- **Low Dust** - Limiting dust and media break-up was critical, as the brittle coating and friable substrate could cause harmful airborne contaminants. Sponge Media abrasives suppress up to 93% of the dust because the pliant urethane material flattens on impact with the surface. The media's pliant nature also absorbs collision energy on impact, significantly reducing media break-up.

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www.SpongeJet.com
 or call **603-610-7950**
 to learn more about the
 Sponge Blasting System

Sponge Media abrasives were effectively used to conduct high quality surface preparation. Blasters achieved approximately 1.4 square feet per minute [28m/hr], removing the marine epoxy coating and creating less than a one-mil profile on the gel-coat substrate with little dust or media rebound.