

Background

The ChemBiozidDV has been in force since 1 January 2025 – it regulates the sale of conventional antifouling paints containing biocides. We provide information on the new purchasing process, correct application and alternative antifouling solutions.

Antifouling paints containing biocides: advantages and risks

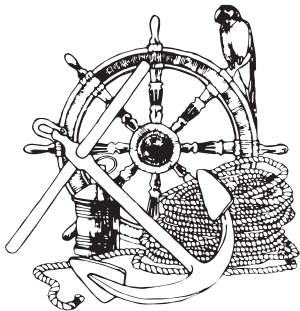
The growth of algae, slime and mussels on the underwater hull, also known as fouling, can significantly impair a boat's speed and fuel consumption. Antifouling paints containing biocides actively combat this by releasing biocides such as copper, which prevent fouling from settling by damaging or killing it.

However, biocide-based antifouling paints not only combat algae and mussels on the hull, they also harm other aquatic life. Furthermore, biocides are often difficult to break down (persistent) and accumulate in water and soil. In the long term, this leads to damage to ecosystems.

Greater awareness through consultation

To reduce the release of biocides into the environment, the regulation introduces new legal requirements: Antifouling products containing biocides may now only be sold to private customers by our trained staff following a brief consultation – whether in-store or via our online shop. The consultation takes just a few minutes and provides information on safe use, storage and disposal – and on when a biocide-free alternative might be a sensible option.

Do you have any questions about the ChembiozidDV or would you like advice on antifouling? We'd be happy to help. You can reach our knowledgeable staff Monday to Friday from 9 am to 6 pm on +49 40 88 90 10 - 80



CHECKLIST

for working with antifouling paint

WORKING AREA

- ☐ Floor tarpaulin
- ☐ Protective sheeting
- ☐ Masking tape

TOOLS & ACCESSORIES

- ☐ Putty knife
- ☐ Sandpaper
- ☐ Wet sandpaper
- ☐ Sander with extraction
- ☐ Putty knife for touch-ups
- ☐ Anti-fouling primer
- ☐ Paint tray
- ☐ Paintbrush
- ☐ Foam/mohair roller
- ☐ Roller handle

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

- ☐ Respiratory mask
- ☐ Dust mask
- ☐ Protective gloves
- ☐ Protective suit
- ☐ Safety goggles

CLEANING & DISPOSAL

- ☐ Bin bags
- ☐ Wipes or kitchen roll



Legal Notice

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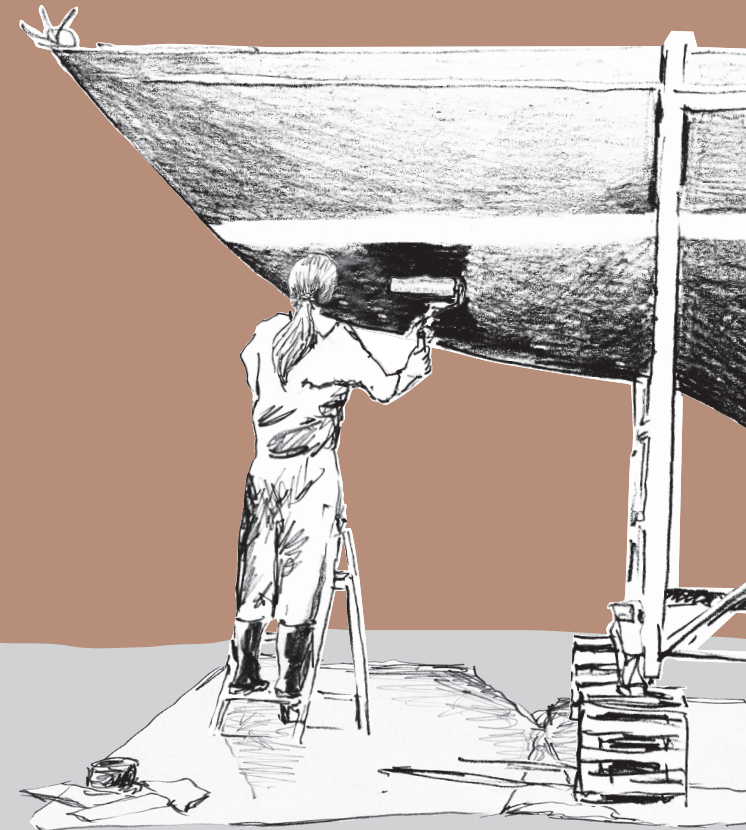
TOPLICHT

Ship equipment | shipyard equipment

how-to
GUIDE

Biocidal Antifoulings

Selection, processing,
environmental protection & health



At first: choosing the right antifouling

Before purchasing antifouling, please consider the following points:

► Fouling conditions in the area

Saltwater or brackish water areas often have a high risk of fouling, against which a biocide-based antifouling is most effective. In inland and freshwater areas, a biocide-free alternative is usually sufficient. The Federal Environment Agency's Fouling Atlas provides an overview of fouling conditions in German waters.



► Regional regulations

There are waters where the use of biocide-containing antifouling is prohibited. Check with local harbour authorities, sailing clubs or environmental protection associations for any restrictions.

► Boat type & speed

Choose a product that suits your boat and how you use it. Antifouling paints containing biocides are divided into three categories:

► Self-polishing antifouling

Ideal for slower boats, continuously releases biocides

► Hard antifouling

Abrasion-resistant coating, suitable for fast boats and for boats that are frequently beached

► Thin-film antifouling

Creates a particularly smooth surface that minimises friction and fouling

► Compatibility with existing coatings

Before switching products, check that the old and new antifouling coatings are compatible. If compatibility is unclear, applying a coat of barrier primer as a bonding coat usually helps.

► Environmentally friendly alternatives without biocides

Biocide-free underwater coatings work in a similar way to conventional hard or self-polishing antifouling paints; instead of biocides, they contain alternative active ingredients such as hydrogel or zinc oxide to protect the surface from fouling. Silicone- or epoxy-based underwater coatings often last for several seasons. They form a smooth, water-repellent surface that is easy to clean.



Good to know: In the TOPLICHT catalogue and online shop, you can recognise biocide-free underwater coatings by our 'biocide-free' fish logo.

Applying antifouling paint safely

When sanding or painting with antifouling paint, aerosols, vapours and dust are produced which can be absorbed into the body through the skin or the respiratory tract and may be harmful to your health.

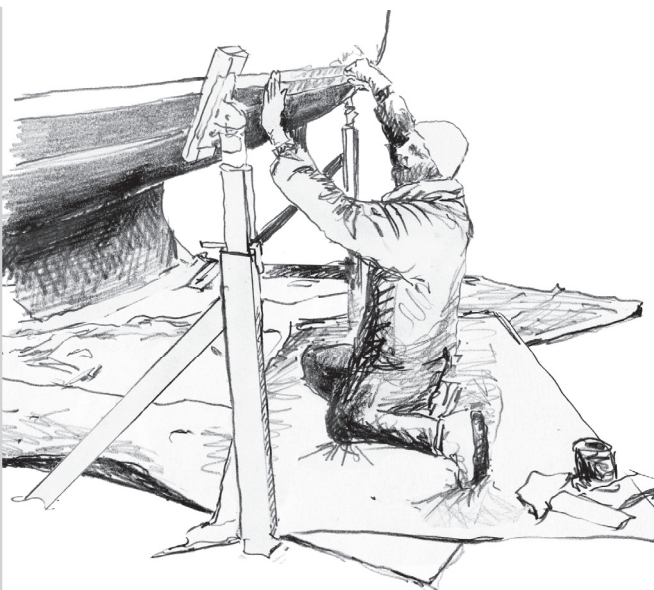
Paint splashes and residues that enter the environment can cause long-term damage to soil and groundwater.

You should therefore find out in advance about the correct application method and take appropriate protective measures to safeguard yourself, those around you and the environment.

1. PREPARATION

- Read the application instructions on the label or in the product data sheet
- Work only in well-ventilated areas or outdoors on a hard, impermeable surface
- Lay down a tarpaulin to catch paint splashes and dust
- When sanding, cover the hull with plastic sheeting to minimise the spread of dust

Good to know: You can find the product data sheets in our shop on the relevant product page under 'Downloads'.



2. AT WORK

- Wear protective overalls, gloves, safety goggles and a mask
- Only carry out dust-intensive manual sanding work with adequate extraction
- Keep away from sources of ignition (open flames, heat, hot surfaces)
- Do not eat, drink or smoke whilst working
- Clean up spills and dispose of them properly
- In case of skin contact, wash off immediately with warm soapy water
- In case of eye contact, rinse with water for several minutes and call a doctor or the poison information centre immediately



3. STORAGE & DISPOSAL

- Seal opened containers airtight
- Keep out of reach of children
- Store at 5 - 25 °C, protected from frost and direct sunlight
- Dispose of paint residues and empty tins properly at the recycling centre; do not put them in the general waste

