Composites

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Guidelines for laminate and gelcoat repair Restoring cracked surfaces



















LAMINATE AND GELCOAT REPAIR PREPARATION

Start by assessing the damage: Is the gelcoat cracked? Is the laminate below it cracked? Removal of damaged material, if into laminate, continue to abrade until no signs of cracking in the laminate.

Image opposite gives guidelines on minimum/ maximum thicknesses for each layer of the repair.



Gelcoat repair should be built up in 300-500 micron individual applications with a wax solution only used in the final layer. (2% Solution MW).

MAXIMUM DEPTHS AND MATERIAL USED FOR COSMETIC SURFACE REPAIRS

Surface Gelcoat Minimum thickness 1.0mm | Maximum thickness 3.0mm ATC F26* repair filler or glass laminate Minimum thickness 1.0mm | Maximum thickness 3.0mm Addition fairing laminate (multiple layers 300gsm powder bound CSM) Minimum thickness 1.0mm | Maximum thickness 11.0mm Coriginal laminate (Gelcoat/Barriercoat removed)

NOTES:



Additional laminate/filler layers should be given adequate time to cure – overnight at temperatures of 20°C or higher is best.



Gelcoat applications can all be applied same working day. (apply normal 'back up' checks before proceeding with subsequent layers, tacky but no gelcoat coming away). The final layer will need wax.



Sanding / polishing / finishing of new gelcoat surface should be done 24 hours after last gelcoat layer applied.

Distortion thickness from



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