



Gel-Coat Bathware vs. Fiat Acrylic Bathware

Gel-Coat Bathware

Commonly called fiberglass bathware, gel-coat bathware products are made by spraying a "gel coating" paint (for color) onto a mold. Resin and chopped fiberglass is then sprayed on. After the product cures, it is then removed from the mold.

vs

Acrylic Bathware

Acrylic bathware products are thermoformed from a single sheet of color through Lucite™ acrylic. The back of each product is sprayed with a mixture of polyester resin and chopped fiberglass giving the product rigidity and strength.

Fiat Acrylic Bathware is made only from Lucite™

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Advantages of Fiat Bathware manufactured only from Lucite™

- **Appearance:**
Fiat Acrylic is much richer with more depth as the material is colored throughout. The smooth, elegant looking surface has a luster and shine not unlike fine china. Gel-coat looks like what it is - a painted surface often possessing an “orange-peel” effect from the process giving a plastic appearance. The color is paper thin.
- **Hardness:**
Hardness tests show that Fiat acrylic bathware is significantly harder - actually up to 10% harder than Gel-coat products. This means that the Fiat’s good looks and smooth shining finish are yours for many years to come.
- **Durability:**
No comparison. Fiat Acrylic Bathware will retain its rich appearance after 20 years service with little or no change in color. Gel-coat finishes, depending on the manufacturer and his process, will chalk, fade and sometimes craze in as little as two years.
- **Permeation:**
Fiat Acrylic Bathware is not porous. It will not allow passage of water into the reinforcement layers. Gelcoat usually has some discontinuity in the coating (pits, etc.) that will allow the passage of water to the reinforcement. Badly weathered or degraded Gel-coat offers very little protection to the reinforcement.
- **Stain Resistance:**
Accepted test methods for plumbingware and spas indicate Fiat Acrylic to be approximately twice as stain resistant as Gel-coat. In addition, acrylic will not be affected by age. Gel-coat's stain resistance deteriorates with age.
- **Cleanability:**
This is related to stain resistance. Fiat Acrylic Bathware cleans easily. Rust stains, hard water deposits and soap deposits are particularly difficult to remove from Gel-coat. These can be removed from Fiat Acrylics with very little effort using mild detergents.
- **Algae Resistance:**
Algae does not stick to Fiat Acrylic; it can easily be brushed or wiped off. On the other hand, it sticks very tenaciously to most Gel-coats and is extremely difficult to remove.
- **Mildew Resistance:**
Fiat Acrylic Bathware is not prone to mildew growth. Gel-coat is.
- **Thickness:**
Fiat Acrylic Bathware Products have a surface that is approximately 2 to 3 times the thickness of the finish on a Gelcoat product. The advantages of this extra thickness are obvious.