

"Email me or call me with your questions! I'll be happy to help you out" americanboatrestoration.com / email: boatrepair@aol.com / Office: 413.665.7424 / Cell: 518.577.7799



Hull Delaminating ...It'll Ruin Your Day

Two boats manufactured by the same company were brought to my shop for repair within weeks of each other because sections of the hull were delaminating. Initially I wondered what could have caused the delimitation which is not only cosmetic; it's structural as well. As you can see in the photos there is a large area of

the bottom laminate that has peeled away. There were no signs of impact anywhere in the fiberglass.

I began the repairs by grinding out the delaminated fiberglass and gelcoat and discovered dry laminate in the fiberglass layers. I continued to grind out the area until I reached good solid laminate. This is indicated in the darker areas, usually purplish in color. I rebuilt the area using epoxies and fiberglass mat. Next vinyl ester resins and fiberglass cloth were applied followed by vinyl ester fiberglass fillers. These materials were chosen because epoxy adheres to polyester resins better than polyester resins adhere to themselves. Gelcoat can be sprayed on vinyl ester fillers but cannot be applied over epoxy. Each layup required grinding and sanding to re-establish the original multiple body lines. The area was masked off and prepped for gelcoat. New gelcoat was applied, allowed to cure, then sanded and compounded to complete the repair.

One thought I had during the repair operation was... what is the condition of the laminate on the rest of this boat... What are we not seeing?

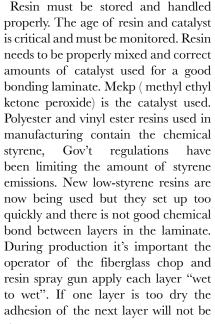
What can cause dry layup? Quality control is of utmost importance! The environment must be right! Not too hot, too cold or too humid.



Note darker area along left side of damage is wet out with resin better than lighter area Very dark area indicates holes in the laminate







Interestingly it is known the company of the boats I repaired has manufacturing plants out of the country. Were these boats victims of poor quality control? How many more boats on the water have this problem?

Not trying to scare anyone just sharing what's happening in the world of boat manufacturing. The boats brought to my repair facility cannot be the only two boats with delaminating problems.

Do your homework when making a boat purchase. Find out as much as you can about the manufacturer and its building process. Get a good manufacturer warranty. What does the warranty cover and for how long? You may need it! Unfortunately, a buyer has no way of knowing how sound the laminate is on a boat.

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Restoration complete.



Eastern NY Marine Trades Association

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