

## **MAINTENANCE AND CARE OF VARNISHED WOODEN PARTS**

Wood is a natural material, and for this reason, its aesthetic characteristics may change over time and depending on climate conditions (surface shrinkage, changes in colour and dimensions, etc.). The natural origin of this material means that each product possesses unique features that enhance its handcrafted character.

Caring for the wood on your boat is an act of love and respect for your vessel. From old panels that tell stories to new surfaces ready for future adventures, looking after the wood is key to maintaining the timeless elegance of our RIVA yacht.

Below are some essential tips that RIVA considers fundamental for the correct maintenance of your boat.

To preserve the beauty of our boats – whether dealing with aged wood or brand new surfaces – it's essential to adopt a dedicated care regime.

The maintenance of these parts includes cleaning, inspecting for hidden damage, sanding, and applying protective varnishes or oils. Regular check-ups are important to keep the wood in excellent condition and extend its lifespan.

Let's go through the key steps for caring for wooden surfaces:

- **Regular cleaning of surfaces.** Regular cleaning is essential to maintain the wood's appearance. Use gentle detergents, preferably those specifically made for marine surfaces, to remove dirt, dust, and salt deposits that can damage the wood over time. Do not use pressure washers or high-pressure tools. Always wash with fresh water only, using a soft brush or scrubbing brush. Brush across the grain to avoid scoring the surface, then dry with a soft, dry cloth.\
- **Inspection of the condition of the varnish and repair of damaged areas.** Carefully inspect the wood for any signs of damage such as cracks, scratches, grooves, or mould. If the surface is still in good condition, a simple clean and possibly a light touch-up with a clear protective varnish will suffice.

If, on the other hand, the varnish is damaged or deteriorated, follow these steps:

1. *Sanding:* Use fine sandpaper to remove damaged areas and even out the surface;
2. *Cleaning:* After sanding, remove dust with a damp cloth or compressed air;

3. *Varnish application:* Varnishing is one of the most important steps in wood care. Apply even coats of high-quality marine varnish. Consider using polyurethane-based products for better durability and resistance to the elements, or choose exterior-grade varnish (e.g., water-based enamels or specific synthetic varnishes);
4. *Clear coat application:* After applying coloured or protective varnish (except on decks with maple inlays), apply a layer of clear coat. This layer serves to protect the underlying varnish from external elements such as moisture, UV rays, and temperature fluctuations, helping to prevent damage or fading. It also adds a glossy or satin finish to enhance the appearance.
5. *Drying and curing:* Allow each layer of varnish and clear coat to dry fully, according to the manufacturer's recommended times. Proper curing is crucial for achieving optimal hardness and long-lasting protection.

➤ **Inspection of the condition of silicone seals and repair of damaged areas.**

Deterioration of silicone (sealants) used on wooden parts of the boat can compromise the integrity of joints and cause water ingress, potentially damaging the wood. Here are some signs that indicate a deterioration of the silicone surface or sealed joints:

- Visible cracks or fissures;
- Warping or shrinkage;
- Colour no longer shiny and uniform but faded or opaque;
- Loss of elasticity;
- Accumulation of mould or algae;
- Water infiltration near sealed areas;
- Roughness or dustiness.

If one or more of these signs is present, remove the old silicone and replace it with a new layer of sealant. Ensure the surface is thoroughly cleaned before reapplying to guarantee good adhesion and prevent future leaks.

Timely replacement of silicone is important for maintaining the boat's integrity and protecting the wood from moisture damage.

➤ **Protection and Precautions**

- Remove dirt, algae and salt with fresh water and a soft brush to prevent damage and deterioration;

- Regularly inspect wooden surfaces to identify and address any problems promptly, preventing more serious damage from occurring;
- Check that the silicone seals are uniform and that there are no cracks or degradation on the surface or in the joints;
- Avoid prolonged exposure to standing water;
- During the winter period or when the boat is not in use, use protective covers to reduce the exposure of the wood to the elements and temperature changes.

Summary table of operations:

Operation	Frequency	Description
<b>Regular cleaning of the wood surface</b>	At each use	Remove dirt, algae and salt with fresh water and a soft brush to prevent damage and deterioration.
<b>Check for cracks or deformations</b>	Quarterly	Regularly inspect the wood for cracks or deformations that could compromise the safety or durability of the wood.
<b>Inspection of the varnish and finish</b>	Quarterly	Check for damage or wear to the varnish and finish. Sand and reapply varnish as needed.
<b>Checking the condition of the silicone seals</b>	Every six months	Check that the silicone seals are uniform and that there are no cracks or degradation on the surface or in the joints.

Any restoration work on the boat must be carried out exclusively by authorised RIVA service centres using trained personnel.

Following the above recommendations is essential for maintaining the basic condition of the vessel and for upholding the boat's warranty.