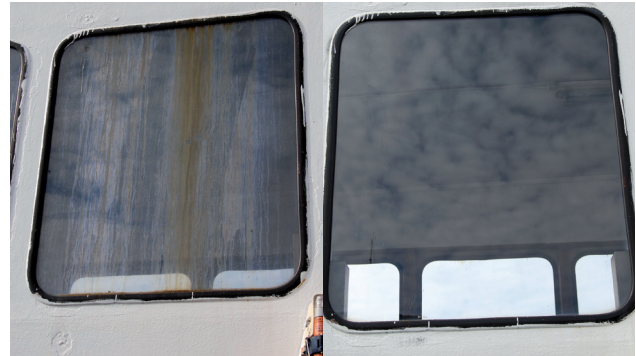


The answer to glass corrosion

Glass is just as susceptible to marine corrosion and tarnishing as metal is, yet its upkeep and maintenance are paid far less heed. However, **Ritec International**, with its long experience in creating and applying glass-surface anti-corrosion measures, can help.



Before and after: Ritec ClearShield can be used to cost-effectively restore the visibility and appearance of stained or corroded marine glazing in situ.

It is well known that unprotected metals exposed to marine conditions can easily suffer – due to moisture from rainfall and humidity combined with atmospheric pollution and limescale from seawater – causing surface corrosion and staining or discolouration. Now there is an increasing awareness that glass without protection will also suffer corrosion and staining, causing it to lose its original visibility, pristine appearance and cleanability.

Glass suffering from corrosion can easily tarnish the all-important appearance and image of a commercial marine vessel. It can significantly reduce light transmission, diminishing the brightness of the interior of a vessel, and increasing the need for artificial lighting and power generation. Reduction in visibility causes risks to the safety of passengers and crew, and is also a source of customer dissatisfaction if guests cannot see out of windows.

A market for solutions to these problems appeared 33 years ago when Ritec International first introduced the ClearShield System™ for use on marine vessels. This technology is still, after all these years, the only complete system for renovation, protection and maintenance of exterior and interior marine glass.

In the first instance

One of the first applications was the St Brendan ferry operating from Liverpool, UK, to the Isle of Man. Next, the operators of ferries crossing from South-East England to continental Europe and cruise ships operating from Southampton saw the benefits of glass with durable surface protection. Since then, countless cruise ships, yachts, super-yachts and offshore drilling platforms have benefitted from durable, 'non-stick' glass-surface protection.

Initially, only the technicians of glass manufacturers knew about surface corrosion; now, it is generally known that glass needs protection against its two main enemies – moisture and alkalinity. Until development of the Ritec ClearShield System, the only options for corroded or stained glass were to either tolerate it or replace it. Now, the glass can be cost-effectively restored to its original visibility, clarity and cleanability in situ.

As a result, owners and operators specify ClearShield® durable glass-surface protection for the prevention of corrosion on new

glass. Application takes place in the factory when the marine glazing is fabricated or in a shipyard after installation.

If marine glass is already damaged, the Ritec ClearShield System is the recourse. However, as always, prevention is better than cure, and it is therefore preferable to specify ClearShield in the first instance.

A glass act

Experience under the harsh and variable conditions of marine vessels is one of the best ways of proving the performance and durability of any surface-protection technology. Glass is no exception, and because of the severity of marine conditions, many brands of glass surface treatments have come and gone.

Durable glass-surface protection is not to be confused with water-repellence. All liquid-applied glass-surface treatments are water-repellent, but only ClearShield has more a successful track record of more than 30 years proving its strong resistance to corrosion and staining under the harshest marine conditions.

Ritec is now celebrating three decades of successful experience on exterior and interior glass of marine vessels by introducing the next generation of technology – the new and proven Ritec ClearShield Eco-System™. This latest development has already won two awards as US Glass Product of the Year and as finalist for the G13 Environmental Initiative of the Year.

The new ClearShield Eco-System has improved performance and durability. It is multifunctional, working on any glass, anywhere at any time. This new development is also super-green, with proven means of reducing energy and water requirements for routine washing of exterior glass.

Ritec International is based in London, UK. Sales and support activities for commercial marine vessels are managed by Ritec Marine Services based in the Netherlands. ■

Further information

Ritec International
www.ritec.co.uk

