



LAMINATOR GELCOATER



“ I love the job of laminator because of the sheer diversity it involves: you get to work on the entire boat, including the interior decoration.”

The laminator gelcoater plies his trade at the beginning of the manufacturing process. **His first job is to prepare and apply the gelcoat.** This is what you see first on the deck or the hull; it's the paint, the colour that's applied directly onto the waxed mould.

As for the deck, once the mould is covered with gelcoat, **layers of woven glass cloth are pre-glued and positioned in the mould** (lay-up). The foam sheets that will form the core of the sandwich are then placed at predetermined locations before being covered with a second glass fabric lay-up. **Now comes the preparation of the resin infusion process:** a film is put in place so that the entire mould can be placed under vacuum. The film has a network of pipes that will allow the resin to be injected. Once a vacuum has been created, the resin is injected using a pump. The operators make sure that the entire infusion process completes smoothly. We now have to wait for the resin to fully **cure (polymerisation)** before removing the film and pipes and releasing the finished part from the mould.

MISSION STATEMENT

- **Lamination station:** resin preparation (compound mixing), fabric cutting, placing the fabrics in the moulds - contact, injection and infusion lamination processes.
- **Gluing station:** assembling wood/composite parts with polyester glue, roughening and prepping parts, applying and laminating gluing strips.
- **Gelcoat station:** applying gelcoat to the moulds using an airmix gun or cup.
- **Gelcoat finishing station:** preparing parts (sanding, masking), applying gelcoat, touching up finishes (water sanding) and polishing parts.
- **Prepping station:** storing stock, unpacking compounds into other recipients and pre-cutting fabrics.

This step takes about **15 working days to complete.** It's important to be **highly meticulous when preparing resin doses and handling** the chemical compounds, as well as when laying the glass fabric. For instance, there are several fabric weights. There are also several types of fabrics: mat (non-woven fibres), which is used as a key layer, biaxial cloth (woven glass fibres), which has reinforcing functions and must be applied in a specific direction, otherwise it loses all its properties.



THOMAS LUCAS
LAMINATOR GELCOATER

“ The AMEL shipyard excels in the quality of the boats it produces. ”



CÉDRIC NICOLAS
LAMINATOR GELCOATER

“ AMEL's highest quality goal is meeting its customers' requirements. ”



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