

THE YACHT SURFACE FIELD GUIDE

TRANSFORM. PROTECT. PRESERVE.

A practical onboard reference for identifying surface issues, deciding what requires action and building a traceable surface-maintenance history.

OCEANSKIN Marine · Europe · Mediterranean · Worldwide on request



SURFACE CHECK · 01

THE 5-MINUTE SURFACE WALKDOWN

A surface issue is easier to manage when it is identified before it becomes a refit item.

Use the same route around the yacht each time. Compare like-for-like areas and record changes rather than relying on memory.

 01 · FINISH CONDITION

CHECK FOR

Loss of gloss · Colour variation or fading · Oxidation or chalking · Haze or uneven reflection · Polishing traces · Local staining

COMPARE

Exposed vs. sheltered surfaces · Port vs. starboard · Previously repaired vs. original areas

 03 · EDGES & TRANSITIONS

CHECK FOR

Film-edge lifting · Open transitions · Contamination at edges · Sealant interaction · Damaged seams · Local adhesive failure

Small edge defects should be recorded before contamination or water exposure increases the affected area.

 05 · HIGH-USE AREAS

GIVE ADDITIONAL ATTENTION TO

Fender positions · Mooring stations · Gangways · Boarding areas · Tender interfaces · Transom · Swim platform · Crew working zones · Exterior furniture and touch points

 02 · CONTACT DAMAGE

CHECK FOR

Fender rub · Mooring-line marks · Scuffs and abrasion · Tender contact · Gangway contact · Boarding damage · Handling or lifting marks

ASK

Is this isolated — or does it happen repeatedly in the same location?

 04 · CLEANING EFFECTS

CHECK FOR

Swirl marks · Chemical staining · Water spots · Mineral deposits · Dull patches · Aggressive polishing traces · Changes following washdown

If the condition appears after cleaning, record the product and method used.

 06 · TECHNICAL SURFACES

TREAT SEPARATELY

Glazing · Carbon fibre · Decorative panels · High-gloss interiors · Displays · Integrated photovoltaic / Solar Skin surfaces

Do not assume that one protection system is suitable for every substrate.

RECORD THE MINIMUM					
WHERE	WHAT	CONDITION	WHEN	EVIDENCE	ACTION
Exact location	Surface / substrate	What changed?	Date identified	Overview + close-up photo	Watch · Plan · Action · Technical Hold

SURFACE CHECK · 02

TRIAGE BEFORE TREATMENT

Not every mark needs repair. Not every damaged surface should be protected immediately. Use four simple statuses to turn observations into a usable worklist.

01 WATCH

Record and monitor.

TYPICAL EXAMPLES

Light contamination · Minor water spotting · Very light cosmetic marks · No progression since previous inspection

ACTION

Photograph · Date · Recheck during the next planned inspection

02 PLAN

Add to the maintenance window.

TYPICAL EXAMPLES

Loss of gloss · Repeated light fender contact · Minor film wear · Local surface deterioration · Early edge contamination

ACTION

Define required work · Add to worklist · Plan access and contractor involvement

03 ACTION

Prevent the defect becoming larger or more expensive.

TYPICAL EXAMPLES

Recurring abrasion · Local film failure · Deep cosmetic scratching · Damaged protective layer · Repeated contact at the same operational point

ACTION

Identify the cause · Protect the area from further exposure where practical · Arrange local specialist assessment or repair

04 TECHNICAL HOLD

Do not cover, polish or disguise until the substrate is understood.

TYPICAL EXAMPLES

Soft or unstable coating · Blistering · Cracking · Adhesion failure · Unidentified coating reaction · Incomplete cure · Damage to integrated PV / technical surfaces

ACTION

Document · Stop unnecessary intervention · Escalate to the appropriate coating, substrate, OEM or technical specialist

QUICK TRIAGE

Light contamination → Correct cleaning → **WATCH**

Fender or rope marking → Document → Determine whether the finish itself has been affected

Repeated abrasion → Identify operational cause → **PLAN** protection

Film scuffing → Inspect film + substrate → Local repair if technically appropriate

Deep scratch → Specialist assessment → **ACTION**

Soft / unstable coating → No protection installation → **TECHNICAL HOLD**

PV / Solar Skin issue → Document → OEM / technical validation

A protection system should preserve a suitable surface, not hide an unresolved one.

SURFACE STRATEGY · 01

START WITH THE OBJECTIVE.

Product selection comes after the operational requirement, substrate and condition are understood.

CHANGE APPEARANCE

DESIGN FILM

APPEARANCE

BEST SUITED TO

Colour transformation · Exterior design · Brand identity · Reversible visual change

RETAIN THE ORIGINAL FINISH

TRANSPARENT SPF / PPF

SACRIFICIAL PROTECTION

BEST SUITED TO

Exposed painted surfaces · High-contact zones · Fender and operational wear areas · Selected hull and superstructure surfaces

CHANGE COLOUR + ADD PROTECTION

COLOURED SPF

TRANSFORMATION + PROTECTION

BEST SUITED TO

Projects requiring a new appearance and a higher level of mechanical surface protection.

MANAGE SOLAR LOAD THROUGH GLAZING

SOLAR & UV CONTROL

SOLAR MANAGEMENT

BEST SUITED TO

Glazing where solar heat, UV exposure and interior preservation are relevant.

EXISTING SURFACE DAMAGE

REPAIR / STABILISE FIRST

SUITABLE STARTING CONDITION

Protection should follow the required substrate work — not replace it.

INTEGRATED PHOTOVOLTAIC SURFACES

TECHNICAL VALIDATION

PROTECT WITHOUT COMPROMISING FUNCTION

EVALUATE BEFORE SPECIFICATION

Optical transmission · Thermal behaviour · Surface chemistry · Adhesion · Weathering · UV exposure · Salt exposure · Cleaning regime · OEM requirements · Effect on PV performance

FOUR QUESTIONS BEFORE SPECIFICATION

01

What is the substrate?

Paint · Gelcoat · Glass · Carbon · Composite · PV · Interior finish

02

What condition is it in?

Stable · Worn · Damaged · Unknown

03

What exposure does it receive?

UV · Salt · Heat · Contact · Cleaning · Charter use

04

What outcome is required?

Transform · Protect · Maintain · Repair · Monitor

The correct surface system follows from these four answers.

LIFECYCLE · 01

BUILD SURFACES INTO PLANNED MAINTENANCE.

Exterior condition should not live only in photographs, WhatsApp messages or crew memory. Surface observations should feed the vessel's normal defect and maintenance workflow.

■	■	■	■	■	➔
EVERY WASH	MONTHLY	PRE-SEASON	POST-SEASON	YARD / REFIT	
EVERY WASH	Check known high-contact zones · Identify new marks before cleaning correction · Inspect protective-film edges and transitions · Use substrate-compatible chemistry and tools · Record unusual damage before attempting removal				
MONTHLY / DURING OPERATION	Review recurring fender and mooring contact · Inspect boarding and tender interfaces · Compare exposed and sheltered surfaces · Review glazing and technical surfaces · Recheck open surface defects · Update photographs where conditions change				
PRE-SEASON	Complete a structured exterior walkdown · Create baseline photographs · Close outstanding surface defects where possible · Prioritise guest-facing areas · Identify recurring damage zones · Review protection requirements · Confirm care products and procedures onboard				
POST-SEASON	Document new defects · Separate cosmetic issues from substrate issues · Identify repetitive operational damage · Update the worklist				
	ASSIGN EACH ITEM WATCH PLAN ACTION TECHNICAL HOLD				
BEFORE THE YARD / REFIT PERIOD	Create a clearly defined surface scope. For each item establish: Exact location · Required result · Access requirement · Surface preparation · Removal / reinstatement requirements · Specialist involvement · Material / finish specification · Acceptance criteria WHERE POSSIBLE, COMBINE WORKS REQUIRING THE SAME Access · Scaffolding · Protection · Removal of fittings · Contractor window				

WORKLIST PRINCIPLE

Define the problem before requesting the solution.

A precise worklist improves quotation comparison, planning, execution and handover.

OPERATIONAL NOTE

A €500 surface problem identified early should not become a €15,000 refit line because its history was lost between seasons.

SURFACE STRATEGY · 02

MAP WHERE DAMAGE HAPPENS.

Surface wear is rarely distributed evenly across the yacht. Operational contact concentrates damage in predictable locations.

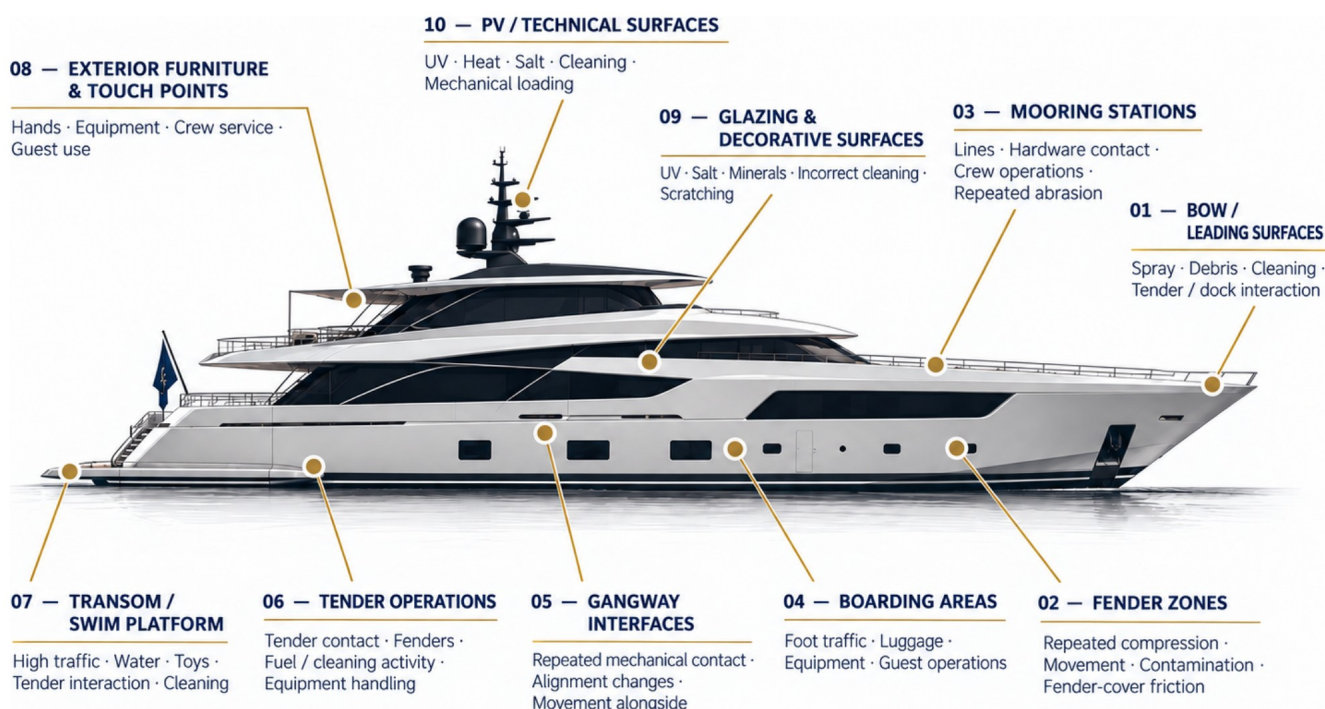


FIG. 02 · INDICATIVE SURFACE RISK ZONE MAP

Functional surfaces require technical validation before protection.

Integrated photovoltaic, Solar Skin and other technical surfaces are assessed for material compatibility, optical behaviour, temperature, adhesion and functional performance before a system is specified.

DOCUMENTATION · 01

THE SURFACE RECORD

Crew changes. Contractors change. Yards change. The surface history should not. Every significant protected, repaired or refinished area should leave behind a usable record.

SURFACE RECORD · WHAT TO CAPTURE

ASSET

Vessel · Area / Deck · Exact location · Port / Starboard / Centre

CONDITION

Condition before work · Existing defects · Previous repairs · Known contamination / coatings · Photographic baseline

MATERIAL

Manufacturer · Product · Finish · Colour / specification · Batch / lot · Relevant TDS / care documentation

SUBSTRATE

Paint · Gelcoat · Composite · Carbon · Glass · PV surface · Interior finish · Other

KNOWN COATING / FINISH SYSTEM

INTERVENTION

Repair · Refinish · Protection · Film replacement · Cleaning correction · Inspection only

EXECUTION

Contractor · Installation / repair date · Surface preparation · Test area where required · Completion photographs · Acceptance / handover

LIFECYCLE

Inspection date · Condition · Local repair · Replacement · Removal · Care instruction changes

WORKLIST-READY DEFECT RECORD

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DEFECT ID

SURF-_____

LOCATION

Deck · Side · Exact position

TARGET WINDOW

Date · Season · Yard period

STATUS

WATCH

PLAN

ACTION

TECHNICAL HOLD

OWNER

Crew · Management · Yard · Specialist · OEM

OBSERVATION

OPERATIONAL IMPACT

None · Cosmetic · Increasing · Functional

EVIDENCE

Overview + detail photographs

NEXT ACTION

Defined task · Owner · Access

WHY KEEP THE RECORD

Maintenance planning · Warranty traceability · Contractor handover · Material identification · Crew handover · Local repair decisions · Refit preparation · Lifecycle cost visibility

OCEANSKIN Marine · SURFACE PASSPORT

Digital surface lifecycle documentation — in development.

CONDITION · MATERIAL · EXECUTION
INSPECTION · REPAIR · RENEWAL

QUICK REFERENCE

BEFORE YOU TOUCH THE SURFACE.

01

New damage?

Document it before cleaning, polishing or repair.

02

Unknown substrate condition?

Assess before specifying treatment.

03

Repeated damage?

Identify the operational cause, not only the cosmetic result.

04

Stable high-value finish?

Consider preventive protection before the next damage cycle.

05

Protected surface damaged?

Assess whether a local section can be replaced.

06

Coating unstable or soft?

Resolve the substrate before covering it.

07

PV / technical surface?

Validate compatibility and functional impact first.

08

Entering refit?

Build the surface scope early and link every item to location, evidence and required outcome.

THE SURFACE
DECISION RULE

ASSESS BEFORE YOU ACT.

OCEANSKIN
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NEED A SECOND OPINION?

For Captains · Yacht Managers · Shipyards · Owners · Yacht Builders

TRANSFORM. PROTECT. PRESERVE.

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oceanskin-marine.comREQUEST A
SURFACE
ASSESSMENT

INDUSTRY INSIGHT · SUPERYACHTNEWS

Why are we repairing the same damage again?

By Nicolas Nieswiodek, Founder, OCEANSKIN Marine · SuperyachtNews

[READ THE ARTICLE →](#)

Technical note: This guide is intended as a practical visual-maintenance reference. It does not replace manufacturer instructions, coating specifications, OEM requirements, class requirements or specialist technical assessment where required.