



**GACODECK™ TOPCOAT  
APPLICATION GUIDE**

**A. SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES**

During weather above 90 °F (32 °C), apply coating in morning or evening. Do not apply during temperatures below 50 °F (10 °C) or if temperatures will fall below 50 °F within six (6) hours. Wait two or more days before using deck or placing heavy objects on surface. The use of GacoDeck Primer is required when applying GacoDeck TopCoat over previously coated and painted surfaces and substrates in cold climate zones. See GacoDeck Primer label for more information.

**B. SUBSTRATES**

**PREVIOUSLY COATED AND PAINTED SURFACES:** The use of GacoDeck Primer is required. If surface is previously painted and has a glossy finish, lightly sanding the surface is recommended before applying Primer or TopCoat.

**PLYWOOD:** Prepare all major seams, cracks and joints before cleaning the substrate with GacoWash; do not wash a new plywood deck. Allow surface to dry for a minimum of forty-eight (48) hours. Prepare all cracks and seams following “Flashing, Caulking and Taping” directions. No primer is required for new plywood applications. If it is a previously coated plywood deck please see “Previously Coated Surfaces” directions. Do not use unsuitable grades of plywood. GacoDeck is NOT recommended for teak, cedar or redwood due to tannin bleeding on light colors. GacoDeck is not recommended if joints and cracks exceed 1/8 in (3 mm) wide. Refer to the “Deck Construction and Preliminary Preparation” for full details.

**CONCRETE:** Concrete surfaces to receive GacoDeck coating must be structural concrete that is properly ventilated. ‘On grade’ concrete slabs must be poured over minimum 4 in (100 mm) pea gravel base or equivalent. Concrete must cure and dry four weeks before GacoDeck application. Concrete surface should be smooth and free from rock pockets or voids without being burnished. Etching of concrete is not normally required. If concrete surface shows evidence of dusting or chalk, etch surface prior to coating application as follows: Apply diluted muriatic acid

(3-parts water : 1-part muriatic acid) at a rate of 1 qt / 75 ft<sup>2</sup> (0.9 L / 2.3 m<sup>2</sup>) following label directions and precautions. Allow the solution to work for two (2) – three (3) minutes. Scrub with stiff brush and flush with clean water to rinse from surface. Allow surface to dry for a minimum of forty-eight (48) hours.

**C. SURFACE PREPARATION**

Remove large areas of dirt, mildew, grease and other debris with a broom. For general cleaning, apply GacoWash Concentrated Cleaner according to label instructions; do not wash a new plywood deck. Rinse with water and allow surface to dry for a minimum of forty-eight (48) hours. Note: Drying time depends on weather conditions such as temperature, humidity and air movement. If more than twelve (12) hours elapses between washing and application, wipe surface with a clean cloth to remove dust.

**D. FLASHING, CAULKING AND TAPING**

**FLASHING:**

All flashing must be flush with surface. If installing flashing, nail or screw every 6 in (150 mm). Care should be taken not to buckle the flashing during installation. Metal surfaces must be primed. Lightly sand surface and prime with GacoFlex E5320 2-Part Epoxy Primer/Filler or a comparable exterior metal primer, according to label instructions. All flashing must be taped.

**CAULKING & TAPING:**

Apply GacoDeckFill according to application instructions to all joints, fastener indentations, cracks and transitions. GacoDeckFill is the only approved joint filler for the GacoDeck system. Once the GacoDeckFill is fully cured, tape all seams, joints, cracks, flashings and changes of plane with Gaco DeckTape. Working in small sections, apply a 5 – 6 in (125 – 150 mm) wide stripe of GacoDeck TopCoat. Cut the DeckTape to desired length, making all cuts with scissors. While coating is still wet, center the strip of DeckTape over the seams, joints, cracks and flashing. Embed smoothly into the coating. Immediately brush another layer of coating over the DeckTape, smoothing out any wrinkles with a brush. Verify the DeckTape is completely covered with GacoDeck TopCoat. If more than one piece of tape is used, overlap any adjoining pieces by a minimum of ½ in (12 mm). Allow the surface to dry. Inspect tape when coating is dry or nearly dry, to ensure the tape is bonded to substrate and completely smooth. Press down any fish mouths or wrinkles, cutting and re-bonding if necessary. Once dry, inspect DeckTape for fish mouth cavities, wrinkles, bare spots and other defects, and repair as needed. For a seamless finish, lightly sand the edges of the coated tape with medium grit sandpaper using a palm sander or sanding block before applying the first top coat. To prevent dirt pick-up, do not leave DeckTape exposed; coat with GacoDeck TopCoat as soon as it is applied. If the GacoDeck TopCoat will terminate where there is no natural break, use Painter's Tape to create a clean, sharp edge.

**E. APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS**

Confirm the substrate is completely dry by laying a 4 ft<sup>2</sup> (0.4 m<sup>2</sup>) piece of plastic sheeting on the deck, taped at all four corners. After a minimum of four (4) hours, pull back the plastic and verify there is no amount of moisture on the deck or plastic. If moisture persists, continue drying until moisture no longer exists.

Four coats are required; recommended final film build is 28 dry mils. TopCoat must be applied at the proper rate of 0.75 gal / 100 ft<sup>2</sup> (2.8 L / 9.3 m<sup>2</sup>). Failure to do so may result in the product's failure to provide a waterproof membrane. Mix before application to ensure uniform color and consistency.

**BASE COATS:** Two base coats are required; apply at a rate of 0.75 gal / 100 ft<sup>2</sup> (2.8 L / 9.3 m<sup>2</sup>) by roller as received. Apply a heavy coat over the entire surface, including taped or flashed areas, in order to create the waterproof elastomeric membrane. Allow the first base coat to dry for a minimum of two (2) – four (4) hours. Apply second base coat as soon as the first coat can be safely walked on. Wrap roller cover in aluminum foil or plastic in between coats.

**TOP COATS:** Add GacoGrip Texture Granules (12 oz / gal (340 g / 3.8 L) to the remaining coating. Stir thoroughly for uniform color and consistency. Apply two separate coats at a rate of 0.75 gal / 100 ft<sup>2</sup> (2.8 L / 9.3 m<sup>2</sup>) by roller as received. Apply first coat in a North-South direction and allow to dry for a minimum of two (2) – four (4) hours. Apply final coat in an East-West direction as soon as the first coat can be safely walked on. If more than seventy-two (72) hours elapses between coats, clean with GacoWash according to label directions. Final coat should be allowed to cure for seventy-two (72) hours (depending on temperature and humidity) before suitable for heavy objects or foot traffic.

**F. MAINTENANCE OR RECOAT**

GacoDeck TopCoat will maintain your GacoDeck waterproofing system by renewing color and increasing durability. Every five (5) – seven (7) years apply two (2) maintenance coats of GacoDeck TopCoat mixed with GacoGrip Texture Granules (12 oz / gal (340 g / 3.8 L) at a rate of 133 ft<sup>2</sup> / gal (12.4 m<sup>2</sup> / 3.8 L). No primer is required. TopCoat will also renew decks coated with acrylic, urethane or Hypalon® waterproofing systems. Apply one coat of GacoDeck Primer before applying two coats of GacoDeck TopCoat.

**G. CLEAN UP**

Clean up GacoDeck TopCoat with soap and water.