



INTERPLASTIC

HISTORY

CASE

Sophisticated Imports



“That's a lot of trouble to go through for perfection.”

Satisfying the minute desires of those who can afford luxury yachts comes with many challenges. For Hargrave Custom Yachts, just one of the challenges was finding the right-sized spa.

A casual meeting between executives from American Whirlpool Inc. and Hargrave Custom Yachts turned into a new business venture for American Whirlpool, a company, renowned for its whirlpool baths, spas and hot tubs.

“These are one-of-a-kind boats and the level of complexity to each one is profound,” states Mike Joyce, CEO, Hargrave Yachts. “We wanted to put a spa on new yachts in the 80- to 100-foot range,” continues Mr. Joyce. “However spa sizes weren't really available for those yacht sizes. We were building our own spas and it wasn't very cost-efficient or practical. This situation called for the expertise American Whirlpool has and they delivered.”

“Most of our spa designs are for in-ground installations but we were able to accommodate Hargrave,” explains Gary Grattan, COO, American Whirlpool. “Our spas have become their new standard. The yacht owner can choose the spa's color and features.”

Mr. Joyce adds that Hargrave Yacht owners may select another brand; however they must sign a warranty disclaimer. Their yachts are manufactured in Asia and Hargrave imports the spas for installation. That's a lot of trouble to go through for perfection. That's a powerful endorsement for American Whirlpool.

The Beauty of Strength

American Whirlpool's luxurious spas are vacuum-formed acrylic shells backed up with Interplastic Corporation's CoREZYN® bonding resin and chopped glass. The de-molded spa has very little strength of its own so the bonding resin and chopped glass are sprayed on to help ensure the spa holds its shape and provide the strength of the finished spa. The resin rigidizes the acrylic shell quickly and has a fast cure. Mr. Grattan says one of their spas is ready for trim in 90 minutes.

"We chose Interplastic's CoREZYN because of the consistency in their resin from batch-to-batch and because of the lab support we get from their Thermoset Resins Division," explains Mr. Grattan. "We've learned that cost is only one factor to consider. If we get a product in the field and there's a problem, the potential damage to our reputation is long-term and expensive so we only work with the best. Their labs verify our Barcol tests, laminate hardness and adhesion, and they have done elevated temperature tests (boil tests) to verify our product strength test results." Whirlpool baths and spas also are tested for fading, stain resistance; crack, impact and scratch resistance; and wear.

"Because of the process American Whirlpool uses and the expertise they have, we can make custom spas," adds Mr. Joyce. "We trust the brands we use and American Whirlpool is one of those brands because their products work every time and they take responsibility for the products they make."

"The average spa will last seven or eight years (or longer) uncovered, in the sunlight," according to Mr. Grattan. "We have spas that are 20 years old that are still beautiful and performing perfectly."

Interplastic Corporation is a specialty chemical company located in St. Paul, Minnesota. It is focused on the production and distribution of unsaturated polyester resins, vinyl ester resins and gel coats for the composites and cast polymer industries. Visit www.interplastic.com to learn all about their capabilities and products for the marine, pool and spa industries. ResinNavigator (www.resinnavigator.com) provides additional information specifically for marine composite manufacturers.

➤ American Whirlpool: www.americanwhirlpool.com

➤ Hargrave Custom Yachts: www.hargrave.org.



fade, stain,
crack, scratch,
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resistant



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