

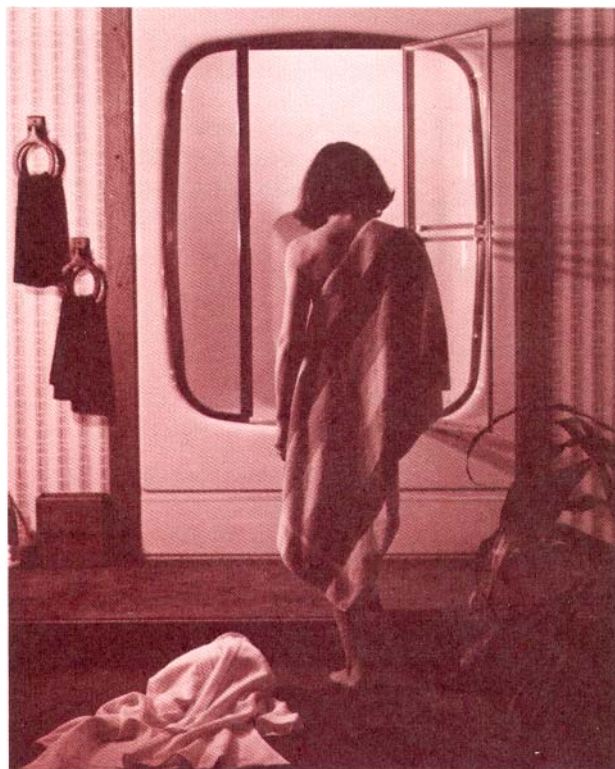
Gel-Coat Bathware vs. Fiat Acrylic Bathware

What's the difference and why should you care?

Actually, there are a great many differences, all of them important.
First though - a couple of definitions.

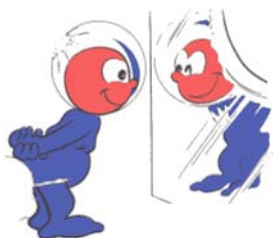


Gel-Coat Bathware: commonly called fibreglass bathware, this product is made by spraying a "gel coating" paint (for color) onto a mold. Resin and chopped fibreglass is then sprayed on. The product cures and is then removed from the mold.



Acrylic Bathware: is thermoformed from a single sheet of color-through Lucite™ acrylic and then sprayed on the back with a mixture of polyester resin and chopped fibreglass giving the product rigidity and strength.

Here are some of the reasons Fiat Bathware is manufactured only from Lucite™ Acrylic.
We're sure you'll see the benefits of this space age process.



Appearance: Fiat Acrylic is much richer with more depth as the material is colored throughout. The smooth, elegant looking surface has a lustre and shine not unlike fine china. Gel-coat looks like what it is - a painted surface often possessing an "orange-peel" effect from the process giving a plastic appearance. The color is paper thin.



Hardness: Hardness tests show that Fiat acrylic bathware is significantly harder - actually up to 10% harder than Gel-coat products. This means that the Fiat's good looks and smooth shining finish are yours for many years to come.



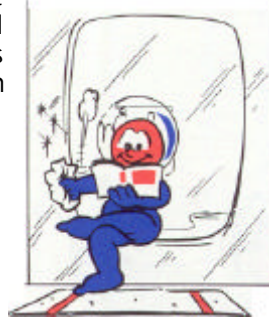
Durability: No comparison. Fiat Acrylic Bathware will retain its rich appearance after 20 years service with little or no change in color. Gel-coat finishes, depending on the manufacturer and his process, will chalk, fade and sometimes craze in as little as two years.



Permeation: Fiat Acrylic Bathware is not porous. It will not allow passage of water into the reinforcement layers. Gel-coat usually has some discontinuity in the coating (pits, etc.) that will allow the passage of water to the reinforcement. Badly weathered or degraded Gel-coat offers very little protection to the reinforcement.



Stain Resistance: Accepted test methods for plumbingware and spas indicate Fiat Acrylic to be approximately twice as stain resistant as Gel-coat. In addition, acrylic will not be affected by age. Gel-coat's stain resistance deteriorates with age.



Cleanability: This is related to stain resistance. Fiat Acrylic Bathware cleans easily. Rust stains, hard water deposits and soap deposits are particularly difficult to remove from Gel-coat. These can be removed from Fiat Acrylics with very little effort using mild detergents.



Algae Resistance: Algae does not stick to Fiat Acrylic; it can easily be brushed or wiped off. On the other hand, it sticks very tenaciously to most Gel-coats and is extremely difficult to remove.

Mildew Resistance: Fiat Acrylic Bathware is not prone to mildew growth. Gel-coat is.



Fiat Acrylic Bathware is manufactured in Winnipeg, pioneers in acrylic manufacturing technology and serving the plumbing industry for almost 70 years.



Thickness: Fiat Acrylic Bathware Products has a surface that is approximately 2 to 3 times the thickness of the finish on a Gel-coat product. The advantages of this extra thickness are obvious.

FIAT®

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