

# 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 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 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.



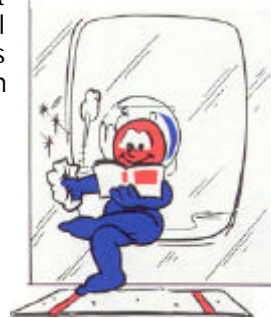
**Durability:** No comparison. Fiat Acrylic Bathware will retain its rich appearance after 20 years service with little or no change in color. Gel-coat finishes, depending on the manufacturer and his process, will chalk, fade and sometimes craze in as little as two years.



**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®

**National Customer Service Centre**  
 255 Hutchings Street  
 Winnipeg, Manitoba R2X 2R4  
 Phone: (204) 633-6122 Fax: (204) 632-4854