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### **Gel-Coat Bathware**

Commonly called fiberglass bathware, gel-coat bathware products are made by spraying a "gel coating" paint (for color) onto a mold. Resin and chopped fiberglass is then sprayed on. After the product cures, it is then removed from the mold.

**VS**

### **Acrylic Bathware**

Acrylic bathware products are thermoformed from a single sheet of color through Lucite™ acrylic. The back of each product is sprayed with a mixture of polyester resin and chopped fiberglass giving the product rigidity and strength.

***Fiat Acrylic Bathware is made only from Lucite™***

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### ***Advantages of Fiat Bathware manufactured only from Lucite™***

- **Appearance:**

Fiat Acrylic is much richer with more depth as the material is colored throughout. The smooth, elegant looking surface has a luster 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.

- **Thickness:**

Fiat Acrylic Bathware Products have a surface that is approximately 2 to 3 times the thickness of the finish on a Gelcoat product. The advantages of this extra thickness are obvious.