CABUCHON®
BATH forms

FICORE®

To the best of our knowledge FICORE® was the first material ever developed specifically for baths. Thirty years ago, we took the strong points of vitreous enamelled metal, acrylic and glassfibre, and created a composite of materials which in a large part has their advantages and adds others, but eliminates the disadvantages.

FICORE is a composite of eight different materials chemically fused during the manufacturing process and then heat cured at very high temperature to provide the finished product. It is NOT laminated or bonded, i.e. it cannot come apart. It is light in weight but 'heavy' in performance.

1. The surface of FICORE is isophthalic neo-pentyl-glycol. This is:

a) 50% harder than acrylic (from which 80% of baths are now made) when both materials are hot; i.e. when a bath is in use. This hardness of surface means that the bath can be kept clean of normal grease and dirt using only a soft liquid detergent. Hard water stains are also easily removed. American National Standard Institute 'Wear' tests with abrasive slurry carried out by an independent laboratory show that after 10,000 cycles the loss of reflectance, where acrylic is commonly 2%, is only 0.5% for FICORE.

b) Able to withstand both continuous heat or hot water of 80 degrees Celsius/176 Fahrenheit, and thermal shock of alternating hot and cold water.

c) Despite the hardness of the surface it remains always tactile, warm to the touch and human friendly.

d) Resistant to most chemicals including acid or alkaline solutions (e.g. lime scale remover) which neither acrylic nor vitreous enamel can withstand.

e) Because of its ability to stand up to immersion in water, it:
   - Is approved by Lloyd's Register of Shipping for use in the construction of craft under their survey.
   - Is approved by Wine Laboratories Limited for long term storage (20 years) of high alcohol content wines and spirits.
   - Is approved by The Water Research Council and the Water Bylaws Advisory Service for the long-term storage (20 years) of potable water.

f) It is resistant to cigarette burns.

2. FICORE's high insulation quality means it keeps water hot six times longer than standard acrylic backed by glassfibre and twelve times longer than vitreous enamelled cast iron. It also reduces noise.
3. Its structural integrity is very high. It is none flexing, and will not buckle, bow, or change shape under pressure as will acrylic. It requires no other material to reinforce it, nor chassis/frame to support it. It can be built in any sensibly commercial thickness.
4. It will not chip as will vitreous enamel.
5. It is fully repairable when other bath materials are not, can be made in literally any colour, is rigid, high gloss, and its composition and method of processing permits more sharply defined detail, i.e. tighter radii and curves, than any other bath material.

6. While many current vitreous enamelled or acrylic baths carry only five years' guarantee, we guarantee FICORE baths for twenty-five years. The guarantee is available on request.
7. Each bath is custom produced for a specific customer and can be multiple colour.

Kitchens Bedrooms Bathrooms Magazine's article 'Taking the Plunge' of December 1996 examined all materials used in baths. It had the following comments:

Vitreous Enamelled Cast Iron 'Heavy and expensive. Water cools rapidly and surface is slippery. Cannot be cleaned with an abrasive cleaner. Cannot be moulded into unusual shapes, or to make extra wide baths'.

Vitreous Enamelled Steel 'Very cold to lean against. Can also chip or crack quite easily'.

Acrylic 'Can start to creak and flex after a while. Scratches easily. If you choose acrylic, make sure it is reinforced to keep it more rigid'.

'Composites like Ficore and Vitrite are made especially for baths and so are designed to minimise problems associated with other materials'. **Both are this Company's trademarked composites.**