

Is this biking's best anti-rust treatment?

XCP Rust Blocker won last year's RiDE anti-corrosion test but had one downside – its sticky, yellow tinge. But is its new Clear Coat just as effective?

THE CLAIM

"For market-leading corrosion and rust protection, trust XCP Rust Blocker Clear Coat to provide long-lasting protection against moisture, salt spray and other corrosive elements. Easily sprayed, wiped and brushed, Rust Blocker Clear Coat provides a durable, non-sticky soft surface film that provides excellent corrosion and rust protection."

THE TEST

Countless riders swear by ACF-50 to keep their bikes rust-free through winter. But in our group test of anti-corrosion sprays (RiDE, January 2020) ACF was beaten by XCP's Rust Blocker. There was just one downside to XCP. While ACF-50 applies with a transparent

finish, Rust Blocker has a thicker, tackier, stickier feel, with a slightly unsightly yellow tinge. For all its protective qualities, not all riders want their bike to look like it's covered in a thin layer of marmalade.

XCP spent 2020 finalising an alternative: Clear Coat. Less sticky and less visually noticeable, XCP says its anti-corrosion performance is superior to rivals (by which it means ACF-50) though not quite as effective as its original Rust Blocker.

Let's see. We cleaned seven 100mm x 100mm squares of mild-steel sheet with a degreaser to remove any surface contaminants, then let them dry for 24 hours. Three plates got a comprehensive coating of ACF-50, Rust Blocker or Clear

Corrosion, meet your worst nightmare



Coat in aerosol form, while another three got the same products from a trigger-spray bottle. The seventh plate was left bare as a control. All treated plates were hung to dry for 24 hours.

Once the plates had dried, we wiped a strip across the bottom of each one with a paper towel to see whether it reduced their effectiveness. Finally, our salty



XCP Rust Blocker won our last anti-corrosion test but leaves a thick orange finish

XCP RUST BLOCKER CLEAR COAT
400ml aerosol £15
500ml trigger bottle £16
www.xcp-protection.com

XCP PROFESSIONAL

RUST BLOCKER CLEAR COAT

HIGH PERFORMANCE RUST PROTECTION
DISPLACES MOISTURE
EASY APPLICATION & REMOVAL
NON-STICKY CLEAR FILM

Will XCP Clear Coat prove as effective as ACF-50?

onslaught began. The plates were subjected to a drenching with a 5% rock-salt solution five times a day for a fortnight. Our testing rig was left outside, ensuring the products were assessed in real-world temperatures, rainfall, wind, sunlight and humidity.

THE RESULTS

Just one day after starting, the untreated control plate is already covered in rust, which indicates how brutal and accelerated this test is. After one week, the original Rust Blocker plates are in the best condition. Those treated with Clear Coat have a very light amount of corrosion, while the ACF-50 plates

show slightly more orange. After the full two-week test, the difference is even greater. The ACF-50 plates have significant surface rust, with more than 50% of the plate now orange. Sure enough, it's been beaten by XCP's Clear Coat, which itself isn't too far behind the original, full-strength Rust Blocker.

▶ XCP CLEAR COAT

The newcomer. XCP launched Clear Coat this October in response to some criticism of the sticky texture of Rust Blocker. Meant to be easier to apply and remove.



Impressive rust protection. Bottom edge, where it was wiped proved most vulnerable.



Slightly messier to apply than the trigger pump but similarly superb protection.

▶ XCP RUST BLOCKER

The test winner. Rust Blocker won a RiDE Best Buy Triangle in our Jan 2020 issue for its unmatched ability to prevent corrosion. Thicker and goopier than ACF-50.



The best protection. An incredible performance, even on the area that was wiped.



Pinhead dots of rust suggest the aerosol isn't quite as effective as the trigger bottle.

▶ LEAR ACF-50

The popular choice. Originally developed by Canadian firm Lear Chemical to protect aircraft, one application claims to give protection for a year. Countless all-year riders swear by it.



Small ACF trigger bottle is fiddly. Gives great protection at first, but it doesn't last.



ACF-50 is easier to apply in aerosol form, though anti-rust performance proves the same.

THE CONCLUSION

It seems XCP's claims for its new Clear Coat really do stand up to scrutiny. It applied thinner and spread more easily than Rust Blocker and, once the plates had dried, it was virtually invisible.

Superficially at least, it's nicer to use than Rust Blocker's thicker, yellow finish. But Clear Coat's results in our salt-spray test are even more impressive. It protected our steel plates far

better than ACF-50, and almost as well as original Rust Blocker. For riders who want their bikes to be both protected and presentable, Clear Coat seems to be the perfect compromise. **R**

