Several years ago, Fountain Powerboats made the switch from an isophthalic tooling resin to Interplastic’s CoREZYN® VE8153 vinyl ester tooling resin. And they’ve never looked back. In fact, today Interplastic Corporation is Fountain’s exclusive resin supplier throughout their manufacturing operations.

“We switched to a vinyl ester,” says Joel Kinney, Fountain Powerboat mold shop foreman, “because it has a lower shrink rate and it’s tougher than an isophthalic. We chose Interplastic’s vinyl ester because it could give us a truer mold, a tougher tool and it was priced very competitively – even against the isophthalic we used to use.” Kinney also says that this vinyl ester withstands well the high temperatures present when curing a hull.

Building a new mold for a Fountain hull is no small feat. It requires more than a week to complete the laminations, reinforcements, piping and final curing. The finished product is a 3/4 to 7/8 inches thick, all glass mold, using the CoREZYN VE8153. “There will be at least 14 layers of increasingly thick laminations made before the final layer, a whopping 60 ounces of glass with a mat overlay, is put down,” says Kinney. After that cures, we pipe the mold (a reinforcing cradle), glass the pipe onto the mold, let it cure and then pull the mold off the plug.” Kinney says sanding and deburring are done between each lamination and the final mold is detailed and buffed to a fine finish before it’s ready to be used.

His shop staff likes the Interplastic VE8153 because it is easy to work with and has very predictable results. “We only mix a gallon or two at a time and use rollers to lay down the laminations and we always get the same results.”

The “toughness” factor that Fountain required from the vinyl ester equates to a significant life expectancy for these molds. “We pull our molds regularly to keep them in good shape and perform preventative maintenance,” says Kinney. “However, we expect these vinyl ester molds to easily last more than ten years.”
When you need innovative solutions to challenges and opportunities, Interplastic's technical staff can consult with you in their labs or yours. They also have a wide variety of technical and application documentation that is available upon request and on-line at www.interplastic.com.

Interplastic Corporation is ISO 9002-registered and headquartered in St. Paul, MN.