

[Coal Tar]

Date: 1789/11/24

Publication Format

Print

Type

Construction

Symptoms

sea worms

Ingredients

coal tar
vegetable tar
brimstone
oil
rosin

Places

Halifax
Nova Scotia

Source: Royal Gazette and the Nova Scotia Advertiser.

Institution: Nova Scotia Archives | **Source Origin:** Nova Scotia Newspapers on Microfilm | **Reference:** Microfilm Reels 8162, 8163, 8165, 8167

Description

An detailed explanation championing coal tar over other applications used to protect ship bottoms from sea worm damage. Vol. 1, No. 35. Microfilm Reel 8162.

Transcription

COAL TAR.

It is universally allowed, that to judge of the value of any thing, the most certain, just, and impartial way is to do it by comparison. Such has been the mode practised by the friends as well as the enemies to that valuable article of British Manufacture, the Coal Tar, and in no one instance has the result failed of being highly and most decisively in its favour.

Pieces of wood have been covered with a coat of Coal Tar, others with Vegetable Tar; some with a mixture of Brimstone, Oil and Rosin; and some with the various other substances now in use for shipping-- These have been nailed to the bottoms of ships going to the West Indies, with the express view, whether the

Coal Tar really possessed the extraordinary and peculiar quality of preventing the bite of the Sea Worm, which is so destructive to the interest of our Ship Owners, and even to the lives of our valuable Seamen.

Upon the return of those ships, the different pieces of wood were examined in the presence of many witnesses; some of whom have, with a generosity and candour that will ever do them honour, come spontaneously forward, and given a public testimony of the great superiority of the Coal Tar: those pieces pieces of wood payed with it remaining perfectly sound, while the others were entirely perforated and destroyed.

The result of another comparative trial has just transpired, and is literally thus:
In the month of September, 1788, the ship, Louisa, Capt. Steele, at the particular desire of a ship-builder in the river, had one side of her bottom (then much in possession of the worm) payed with Coal Tar, and the other with white stuff. She is now returned from a voyage to Kingston and Black River in Jamaica, and being yesterday in Shadwell Dock, underwent an examination; when it was found, as far as could be judged, that the side payed with the Coal Tar, was not only much cleaner than the other, but also that the worm had not made any farther impression on it; while, on the contrary, the side payed with the white stuff was much more wormed than before. Of this circumstance Capt. Steele is ready to give a confirmation, if applied to at Lloyd's, or the Jamaica Coffee houses.

Coal Tar recipe from Early Modern Maritime Recipes: <https://emmr.lib.unb.ca/recipes/214>