

HOW TO SHINE YOUR BOAT HULL

Do It Yourself. "Saves You Time and Money"

TIPS & TRICKS
THAT MAKE
YOUR BOAT
HULL SHINE!

2015 EDITION

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BOAT DETAILING by **ROCKIN** FISH BOATS - SKI BOATS - PONTOONS

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How To Shine Your Boat Hull Like A Pro	2
Compound Your Boat Like A Pro	3
Finesse	4
How To Wax A Boat Like A Pro	5
How To Deep Shine Like A Pro	6
Before and After	7
Final Thoughts	9

BOAT DETAILING by **ROCKIN**

FISH BOATS - SKI BOATS - PONTOONS

HOW TO SHINE YOUR BOAT HULL LIKE A PRO

WASH THE BOAT:

I use 2 buckets to wash a boat. One bucket only has water and the other bucket has 1/3 cup boat soap and 8 oz. of hull cleaner in 3 gallons of water. Wash an area of the boat with the soap mixture, then dip your mitt in the clean water to remove any debris before dipping into the soap solution again. This reduces scratching the finish. It takes about 10 minutes to wash one side of a 20' boat. On custom paint I will go as far as to use RO water and 6 clean wash mittens to reduce any chance of scratching.



COLOR SANDING:

Look the boat over and make a plan. In most cases the entire boat won't need color sanding. Tape on rub rail first. If your boat has heavy oxidation, start with 1000 grit wet sand paper. Lightly move in horizontal then vertical movement about 12" square area. Always keep the sand paper wet. After sanding with 1000 use both hands, 1500 grit in right hand 2000 grit in left hand. Start on bow and sand towards stern moving both hands in both directions. Right hand leads left hand follows. Try it you'll get it in just a few minutes.



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COMPOUND YOUR BOAT LIKE A PRO

COMPOUNDING:

Apply 3 pea sized dots of compound on a 10" wool hook & loop head. Start in an inconspicuous area to get the feel of the buffer. Apply light pressure on buffer and move in a horizontal direction about 1' no larger, move with steady movement about 2" at a time. After you have done 1' horizontal, do the same action on the same area in a vertical direction. Always overlap when starting the next 1' area. Repeat process until entire side of the boat is compounded and shiny. Wipe compound dust off using clean towel. The shine is a result of compounding.



Only apply light pressure when compounding. Gelcoat will burn if your buffer speed is too high and/or if you apply too much pressure or product. Take your time and let the machine and product do the work. Use an air compressor to blow compound dust from the interior before proceeding. It gets easier after you have a few feet completed.

This is top quality marine compound. You can use what ever brand you want but your results can vary. We have used several brands and have received the best and most consistent results with this compound. If you plan on owning your 21' boat for a year or more, this quart size should be all you need. Read manufactures warnings before use and as always use your protective gear. Click the link below for more product information.

[PRODUCT INFO](#)

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Do not apply pressure when finessing gel-coat, just let the dual action buffer glide across the surface to remove any surface scratches. You will notice the smoothness after you complete this step.

FINESSE:

Apply ample amount of Finesse-it ii swirl remover on a 10" orange foam hook & loop back head. Start in an inconspicuous area to get the feel of the buffer. Apply light pressure on buffer and move in a horizontal direction about 1' no larger, move with steady movement about 2" at a time. After you have done 1' horizontal, do the same action on the same area in a vertical direction. Always overlap when starting the next 1' area. Repeat process until entire side of the boat is Finessed and glazed.



You can use other brands but make sure you don't get cross-contamination. This is a 3-step process that I use and have had only positive results. If you plan to use your boat on a regular basis then this should always be within reach. Store in a cool, dark room with a cool temperature. It might be costly and time consuming but if you want that deep gloss factory look you must finesse it before waxing. Click the link below for more product information.

[PRODUCT INFO](#)

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HOW TO WAX A BOAT LIKE A PRO

WAX:

This part we do by hand or use a dual action buffer. Always apply wax in an even rotation going in one direction. Just as starts to haze, wipe it off using a clean flannel towel in a circular motion and be sure to flip your towel every few rotations to assure there is no wax build up on your flannel towel. Continue until entire side of the boat is waxed to a deep shine then go back over complete side of boat using a clean flannel towel very lightly to avoid scratching.



The best way to protect the hours you have invested in restoring and prolong your boat's shine is to use this product. It has exceptional durability and high gloss. It is easy to apply and easy to work with. Always read manufactures warnings before you use any products. Always use proper safety gear when applying any products. Click the link below for more product information.

[PRODUCT INFO](#)

BOAT DETAILING by **ROCKIN**

FISH BOATS - SKI BOATS - PONTOONS

HOW TO DEEP SHINE LIKE A PRO

FINAL COAT:

Carnauba wax sealant is the solution for keeping your boat looking new year after year. Salt from the ocean and intense ultra-violet rays from the sun cause the gelcoat on boats to oxidize and yellow, hiding the shine from the underlying finish. This chalky, white residue is an eyesore that takes away from the overall appearance of your boat. Carnauba wax is the preferred boat wax for carnauba enthusiasts because it creates a rich, warm glow. It doesn't appear to sit on the gelcoat. It transforms it into a deep, liquid pool that shimmers under changing light conditions.



TOOLS:

Makita Rotary Buffer: Use for compounding, it's a work horse.

Flex Rotary Buffer: Use for finesse process, it's smooth.

Flex Dual Action Buffer: Use for wax and seal, it shines best.

Klutch Rotary Buffer: Use for bottom side, it's a cheaper buffer.

Mi-T-M 1400 PSI electric pressure washer: Use it before hand washing, it lasts for years.

Honda 30 gallon air compressor: Blow dust away after compounding.

(12) - 10" wool cutting pads (hook & loop backing): For compound only

(6) - 8" orange foam polishing pads: Use for finessing to remove light scratches.

(3) - 8" black foam jewellery pads: To apply wax to an ultra-deep shine that lasts.

(24) - 24" square flannel surgical towels: To wipe down after every process (won't scratch).

(12) - 6" hand wax applicator pads: (carnauba) if hand applying or touch up areas.

(1) - 25' 3 prong heavy duty extension cord: (get a good one) electricity & water don't mix.

(3) - 5 gallon buckets: (1 for color sanding, 2 for washing) keep them separate.

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BEFORE AND AFTERS



BOAT DETAILING by **ROCKIN**

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FINAL THOUGHTS

The first step to detailing your boat should always be to give it a healthy spray of clean water to remove any loose debris or grime from the surface. Start from the top of your boat and work your way down until you reach the bottom. As mentioned earlier, this is just to remove the loose bits that are on the surface of the boat, this will not give it a complete clean. A good hose nozzle works here, but a pressure washer would be an added bonus. Once you have removed the loose pieces of debris and grimes, it is time to get to work on the more stubborn dirt on the boat's surface. After giving your boat a good cleaning, using specialized boat soap, you can see it is quite dull compared to when you bought it. To bring back the shine, you need to get to work whether by hand or with a rotary buffers to remove oxidation and prepare the surface of the boat for the waxing stage of the detailing process. To really add that showroom shine to your boat, you absolutely have to apply wax to its surface. Not only does the boat wax shine up the surface to make it more attractive, it also protects the surface against debris and grime, meaning you will be required to detail it less often. Just like if you were waxing your car, you should only concentrate on small areas at a time, buffing off the wax as you go until the outside of your boat is gleaming in its pristine condition. It is worth noting that specialized boat wax works much better than others you may purchase. This is because the boat wax is specially formulated to deal with the increased contact with water that a boat experiences compared to a car.

There is a lot of debate on how often and in what order you should handle the polishing and waxing of your boat. Basically, the polish is more of a light compound that removes scratches and such, and the wax is a protective cover on your gelcoat. If you do nothing else at least make sure to wax your boat twice a year. Contact your detailer to discuss your different options. If you are lucky enough to live near the ocean, it is of the utmost importance that you always wash the salt off your boat after a day on the water. The sea salt will corrode the metal in your boat and, if left to bake in the sun, can result in a bad looking boat and that is, when your boat is completely encrusted with sea salt. At that point, the salt has to be chipped off and the surfaces pretty much redone

Protect smooth gelcoat surfaces (everything but non-skid) with an application of wax or polish. The porous, colored resin finish on your boat is only 20 mils thick, that's about 5 sheets of office copy paper. UV rays, salt, atmospheric pollution, acid rain, insect fluids and bird droppings wage a never-ending war on your boat's finish. Waxing puts a protective layer between the gelcoat and the environment. It also makes your new or old boat look better. In choosing a protective product, here are some points to consider. Synthetic polishes and waxes have been available for many years now and offer ease of application and maximum durability. Paste waxes put a slightly heavier film thickness on the surface than polishes but they take more energy to apply and remove. Also, because they go on thicker, they deliver slightly longer protection. Liquid polishes apply and come off with much less effort. Paste products are traditionally applied and removed by machine, liquid by machine or hand.

When manually working with either of these products, use an application pad, preferably a micro fiber one. You'll find less expensive micro fiber rags and towels sold at Costco, Sam's and Target stores.

I've always been a big fan of paste waxes applied with a buffer. Last season, for the first time, I applied a polish using the same technique. I would buff and wax but my large, swooping circles left dull and shiny patches. Proper application of liquids takes a golf ball size amount squirted on the applicator pad and working just within arms length, wipe in a small circular motion. As soon as resistance is felt on the pad, add more liquid. Use lots of polish. Wait a few minutes for it to haze and then remove it with a clean and dry micro fiber cloth, turning it frequently to expose a clean surface. Move along the surface, working in small areas, applying and removing.

If you own a boat you will have to detail it on a regular basis if you want to protect your investment. Go ahead and invest in some good quality tools and top grade marine chemicals and get to work. The money you save over the years will make the ROI well worth while. At first it might seem like a daunting task but in reality it is good for you (exercise) and your boat (investment). It's not necessary to clean with soap every time you wash your boat. Before and after every outing just rinse the boat with freshwater to remove surface dirt and towel dry. The natural abrasiveness of soap, regardless of the manufacturer's product claims, does break down wax. Under normal circumstances a wax lasts 3 to 4 months. Scrub it with soap every week and its life is much shorter. When you do need to use soap, use a diluted solution. On mornings with heavy dew, dry surfaces using a flannel towel and you're good to go. On clean, dry surfaces, liberally apply a spray-on wax. This restores the gloss and renews the UV inhibitors so the sun doesn't begin to break down the protective layer of polish. Salt is hard on every boat. Routinely rinsing off salt from railings, anchor chain, the windlass and other metal hardware. Proper cleaning helps to protect your boat from elements that spoil its appearance. With the right techniques this is achievable so you spend more time on the water and less time cleaning.

I hope you received some good information from this eBook that will save you some money make your boat shine, increase the value of your boat and make you healthier from the exercise. Good luck on your mission and may you have many happy days in your shiny boat.

Merchant Mariner Oath 46 USC I do solemnly swear or affirm that I will faithfully and honestly, according to my best skill and judgment, and without concealment and reservation, perform all the duties required of me by the laws of the United States. I will faithfully and honestly carry out the lawful orders of my superior officers aboard a vessel.

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