

# SAILING

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# TODAY

## GEAR On Test

by Jake Frith

### Boat Buddy Trials



The slightly gimmicky, Americanised name doesn't particularly inspire confidence in the product, which is a shame because our results were pretty good. The product comes in a kit containing three bottles:

**All Over Boat Wash** – removes grease, oil, moss, salt and general light stains.

**Gelcoat Stain Remover** – a more serious cleaner to remove stubborn stains, such as rust.

**Premium Boat Wax** – the final product designed to seal in the finish.

The first stage is a fairly straightforward washing product, which I have to say did a very good job of cleaning a boat that had been left untouched for six months or more.

The liquid is a 50:1 concentrate, so it should last a good while. I wondered if Stage 2 would be worthwhile, being

as it was now so clean, but the instructions insist you follow the recommended procedure to the letter, so that's what I did. The second stage simply requires you to 'paint on' the product and sit back with the newspaper for 20 minutes. In fact the Gelcoat Stain Remover did indeed get even more of the gunge off, including the sooty/greasy streaks below the exhaust, leaving it pretty much spotlessly white, but dull. It has the consistency of paint stripper – and smells a bit like it too – so one wonders how it manages to go under the labels of 'environmentally responsible' and 'biodegradable'. However, the blurb insists it contains no oxalic acid or other nasties, so maybe this is indeed true.

Finally, Stage 3 is the polish and seal step, using bottle No.3, the Premium Boat Wax. It is applied by hand using a microfibre polishing cloth, but having done all the cleaning in Stages 1 and 2, applying the polish/sealer was fairly effortless and a smart shine soon appeared. The shine settled down to a slightly more satin finish after a few days, but running your fingers over it you can feel it is doing its job.

The Boat Buddy cleaning kit is a three-stage 'system', the instructions for which must be followed carefully. Unlike the more common compound/polish systems, whereby you apply ever finer abrasive compounds to bring back the colour and shine to the gelcoat, this system is designed for the least amount of elbow grease.

The cleaning products proved to be very good at getting rid of all the grime and stains, and left the gelcoat matt white ready for waxing/sealing.

