



Designation: D4330 – 24

Standard Practice for Evaluation of Fiberglass Boat Polish and Wax¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D4330; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last reapproval. A superscript epsilon (ϵ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

1. Scope

1.1 This practice covers the properties to test and the apparatus to use when evaluating the performance of boat polishes and waxes, in terms of ease of application, cleaning efficiency, gloss, and improvement of aesthetic appearance.

1.2 *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety, health, and environmental practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

1.3 *This international standard was developed in accordance with internationally recognized principles on standardization established in the Decision on Principles for the Development of International Standards, Guides and Recommendations issued by the World Trade Organization Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Committee.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*²

D2825 Terminology Relating to Polishes and Related Materials

3. Significance and Use

3.1 Boat polish or wax aids in cleaning and maintaining the surface of fiberglass boats. The function of cleaning is very important.

3.2 This practice defines the properties to be tested, the apparatus to use, and the comparisons of product performance. It is recognized that considerable discretion exists among formulators and marketers of boat polish on what properties or performance characteristics are best for their products. This practice is flexible to honor this fact.

3.3 The methods of testing are subjective and empirical in order to conform to the basic characteristics of the industry and

to allow flexibility in testing. Although test panels may be used for screening purposes, actual boat surfaces should be used for the final evaluation.

4. Apparatus and Materials

4.1 *Polish or Wax.*

4.2 *Control Polish or Wax*—The control is selected subjectively for comparison to the test sample. It may be a competitive product, a modified formulation of the test polish or wax, and so forth. The control must be of the same or similar type as the test sample. It would not be meaningful to select a paste product as a control for comparison to a liquid test polish or wax. In addition, polishes to be evaluated should be for the same intended use. Products for below the water line may be different than those designed for above the water line.

4.3 *Test Substrates*—The test substrate³ shall be intended for the test polish or wax. The test surface shall be in good physical condition, not badly cracked, scratched, or otherwise damaged so as to interfere with evaluations of polish or wax properties. The minimum test surface area for each sample shall be 200 in.² (1290 cm²). Whenever possible, the evaluation of test polish or wax should be made on boats subject to actual use and exposure to diverse but normal conditions.

4.4 *Polishing Cloth*—The same type of polishing cloth shall be used with each sample tested. Separate cloths shall be used for each sample. Materials such as washed cheese cloth, rumple cloth, flannel, cotton diaper cloth, and nonwoven fabrics are suitable for this purpose. Felt or paper shall not be used.

4.5 *Cleaning Solvent*—Aliphatic solvents with Kauri Butanol values less than 38.

4.6 *Eye Droppers and Distilled or Deionized Water.*

4.7 *Masking Tape*, with a $\frac{3}{8}$ in. (9.5 mm) width.

4.8 *Thermometer.*

4.9 *Humidity Gauge.*

¹ This practice is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D21 on Polishes and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D21.04 on Performance Tests.

Current edition approved Nov. 1, 2024. Published November 2024. Originally approved in 1984. Last previous edition approved in 2017 as D4330 – 94 (2017). DOI: 10.1520/D4330-24.

² For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, www.astm.org, or contact ASTM Customer Service at www.astm.org/contact. For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

³ Type of fiberglass, polyester or gel coat, or both.