



Standard Practice for Evaluation of Fiberglass Boat Polish and Wax¹

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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 and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:

D 2825 Terminology Relating to Polishes and Related Materials²

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 Sample of Polish or Wax.

4.2 *Sample of 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 3/8-in. (9.5 mm) width.

4.8 *Thermometer.*

4.9 *Humidity Gage.*

5. Test Conditions

5.1 The temperature and relative humidity of the test runs shall be measured and recorded. The temperature shall be within 55 to 85°F (13 to 29°C) with a relative humidity of 20 to 80 %.

5.2 The substrate shall have the same temperature as the surrounding area.

6. Personnel and Instructions

6.1 The application and evaluation of the test and control polishes or waxes require four individuals. They shall be capable of making discriminating judgements of subjective physical and aesthetic properties. Training and orientation to specific product performance characteristics may be required.

6.2 The four persons each apply the polishes or waxes to one of the four test substrates. All persons then rate all properties except application properties on the remaining three

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.

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² *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 15.04.

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