

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Got a question? We've probably got it covered.

1. If my trailer has a bunk or roller that KeelShield will rest on, will it work?

It will work as long as the KeelShield (after it is installed) Does Not rest on the bunks or any weight bearing rollers. The KeelShield Can Not come in contact or rest on bunks or weight bearing rollers even when unloading the boat from the trailer. If the roller or bunk is further down and your KeelShield doesn't rest on it when you are trailered, you still need to be sure that when you launch that you try to float the boat off of your trailer so your KeelShield does not get caught on it.

2. Will the KeelShield keel protector work on aluminium boats?

KeelShield will not work on some aluminium boats. Some Alumacraft , G3 Angler, Lowes and Lunds. KeelShield will not conform to boats with the knife like reinforced keelbone. Please contact us for more info on these brands of boats.

3. We have plastic docks that you drive up on. Is that a problem?

Yes , because the material that KeelShield is made out of and the plastics the docks are made of grab and do not slide on the docks. We recommend that you do not install KeelShield .

4. Does KeelShield work on all PWC's?

No, KeelShield will not work on the Yamaha VX 110 and the Sea Doo 4-Tec Hull design. KeelShield is 5" wide and the jet ski hull needs to be smooth with no ridges for the product to work. Please contact us if you have questions regarding your jet ski.

5. How do I know what size to use on a Rigid Inflatable Boat?

RIB's come in a variety of sizes and they are used in many different applications.

RIB's that are 12 feet and under are generally used as tenders and they are most likely going to be pulled all the way up a beach to prevent it from drifting off during a rising tide. Larger ribs may be used as a primary boat (not as a tender) or as a tender to larger vessels.

With these two distinctions made you can determine how you want to protect your bottom.

For smaller RIB's up to 11'

For protection against keel damage while pulling up on a beach completely;

1. Measure from the bottom of the bow eye to the transom.
2. Take this measurement on center to the transom radius.
3. Add 4' to this measurement which can be turned up the transom.
4. If you have a drain plug in the transom, you can "punch" a hole to accommodate the drain plug.

By turning up the KeelShield at the transom, the KeelShield will not get caught on rocks and it will make it easier to slide the RIB off the beach.

For RIB's in the 11' up to 13' Range

Ribs in this range can be pulled up a beach completely or you may just pull it up part way onto the beach for a short stay. The important question here is how you use your RIB.

5. For RIB's pulled up a beach completely we recommend that you follow the guidelines for a smaller RIB (As above) and protect the keel completely with KeelShield.
6. For Ribs that are used as a small boat and are not pulled up completely you can use a 5' piece.
7. If you have been using your RIB for a period of time and have present wear on the keel, you can measure from the bow eye to the aft end of the damaged section and add 2' for a safety margin.

#### **For larger RIB's over 13'**

8. For RIB's 13' to 16' use a minimum 6' length
9. For RIB's 16' and over use the minimum length as recommended in the standard size chart on the KeelShield site.

6. Does it take Long to put KeelShield protector on my boat or PWC?

No. It takes about 2 hours to do a boat and 1 hour to do a PWC.

7. Will KeelShield work on painted hulls?

If the paint is anti-fouling paint (is dusty to the touch). The paint will have to be sanded off. Then apply the KeelShield per the instructions.

If it is an aluminum boat it will stick as long as the paint does not chip or flake off. When you install a KeelShield you must first scuff the surface. If the paint sands off you will be fine. If the paint chips or flakes you will have to sand off the paint where the KeelShield will be installed.

8. How far back should the KeelShield go on my PWC or Boat?

For powerboats the KeelShield must go far enough aft to cover any area that will be on the beach, plus one (1-2) foot extra. It is very important that the trailing edge of the KeelShield never touch the sand. Remember KeelShield protectors can never be too long. Please refer to the sizing chart. If this length is not long enough to reach past the present wear, add the additional length and order accordingly.

When installing on a PWC, the KeelShield protector should go all the way aft until it is 1/4" from the intake grate (Note: do not apply the KeelShield protector to the intake grate itself). This will allow the PWC to be pulled on and off a beach without wearing on the aft end.

9. What temperature can KeelShield protectors be applied?

The surface temperature must be at least 21 ° C for the adhesive to "kick" properly. If you are located in a cold region please be especially cautious as boats and PWC stored in cold sheds will need time to "warm up" before application. Remember the boat hull temperature must be at least 21 ° C.

10. Can I use anything other than alcohol to clean the bottom after I abrade the surface?

Alcohol is the only cleaner that when it evaporates does not leave a film. Solvents like acetone, lacquer thinner and others evaporate so quickly they leave a film that will interfere with the adhesive. It is important that you closely follow the directions for cleaning as a clean uncontaminated surface is needed for the adhesive to set properly.

11. My boat or PWC is new. Is there anything special I need to do before I apply my KeelShield protector?

When you receive a new boat there is still mold release wax on the surface. If you follow the KeelShield directions exactly as they are written then you will not need to do anything special. It is very important to do each step exactly as they are described in the instructions.

12. We deal with high speed boats, is there anything else we need to do during application?

No.

13. Will KeelShield Keel Protectors affect the performance of my PWC or powerboat?

Boats will notice no effect on either speed or handling. PWC tests have shown that KeelShield protectors may increase the speed of your PWC slightly and increase the tracking ability.

14. When I touch the KeelShield to the surface, Can I move it again if I have to?

NO! Once you have applied the adhesive to the prepared surface it will not come off. So please be sure that you are starting where you planned to and that you have lined the KeelShield protector on the center.

15. Once I Have Applied My KeelShield Keel Protector Is There Anything Else I Need To Do?

Yes, Make Sure you have applied pressure inside the grooves with the squeegee. It is important that pressure has been applied to all surfaces, both ridges and grooves, to assure a 100% bond.

16. Can I use something other than the scouring pad that comes with th KeelShield protector?

There is no need to use anything else, just remember, abrade the surface in a circular motion.

17. Can I mark the centerline with a pencil to make it easier to line up the KeelShield ?

You can make a light pencil line down the centerline after you abrade the boat but before you do the final cleaning of the surface. Enough of the line will remain so you can align the KeelShield protector on center.

18. When I apply the KeelShield to the bottom is it OK if I touch the prepared surface?

Once the surface is prepared DO NOT TOUCH IT. The oils in your skin will neutralize the adhesive thus causing adhesive failure. Do not touch the prepared surface or the tape during application.

19. How do I clean the excess primer and KeelShield after application?

You can use a clean rag and some alcohol to clean away the excess primer from the hull. The alcohol will also clean the KeelShield of any dirt or shipping marks.

20. Is There Any Way I Can Check My Work?

Yes, using the squeegee, press hard on the edges, grooves and the ends to make sure the KeelShield is secure. If you have missed one area and it is possible there are others.

Remember, it is very important that you have full contact of the adhesive to the hull for a full bond.

21. How do I cut my KeelShield Keel Protector?

KeelShield protectors will come either pre cut to the proper length for your PWC or boat or in a length you can trim yourself. If you find that a piece is a little too long then you can cut it using a metal straight edge and a heavy-duty non-retracting razor knife. If you need to trim your KeelShield always trim it in the aft section, as you do not want to change the radius or bevel of the forward section.

22. How do I access the bottom of my PWC?

The easiest way is to roll it over onto its side. Take a 2x4 or something that will support the PWC on its side. From there the application should be a snap.

# KEELSHIELD

## **If I purchase my KeelShield on eBay will it have a lifetime warranty?**

Only if the seller is an authorized dealer for our products.

## **Can I use anything other than Isopropyl alcohol to clean the bottom after I abrade the surface?**

Isopropyl Alcohol is the only cleaner that when it evaporates does not leave a film. Solvents like acetone, lacquer thinner and others evaporate so quickly they leave a film that will interfere with the adhesive. It is important that you closely follow the directions for cleaning as a clean uncontaminated surface is needed for the adhesive to set properly.

## **Can KeelShield be placed over existing damage?**

KeelShield may be placed over existing damage, as long as there are no gouges or scratches more than ¼" deep and your keel is not leaking. If you have extensive damage or your keel is leaking you will need to make some kind of repair before you install your KeelShield. If you make repairs yourself, be sure to follow the manufacturer's instructions on curing before you install your KeelShield.

## **Will the KeelShield keel protector work on aluminum boats?**

Yes, The KeelShield keel guard will work on a variety of aluminum boats, such as Tracker, Xpress, Vexus, Ranger and more. However there are some styles of keels that it will not work on with a large, knife like keel structure – similar to the keel commonly found on a Lund or older riveted style hulls.

## **What temperature can KeelShield protectors be applied?**

The surface temperature must be at least 70 degrees for the adhesive to "kick" properly. If you are located in a cold region please be especially cautious as boats and PWC stored in cold sheds will need time to "warm up" before application. Remember the boat hull temperature must be at least 70 degrees not just the outside temperature or the building temperature.

## **If my trailer has a bunk or roller that KeelShield will rest on, will it work?**

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## **Does it take Long to put KeelShield protector on my boat or PWC?**

No. It takes about 2 hours to do a boat and 1 hour to do a PWC.

## **Can I use something other than the scouring pad that comes with the kit?**

There is no need to use anything else, just remember, abrade the surface in a circular motion.

## **How do I know what size to use on a Rigid Inflatable Boat?**

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### **Does KeelShield work on all PWC's?**

No, KeelShield will not work on the Yamaha VX and the Sea Doo 4-Tec Hull design. KeelShield is 5" wide and the jet ski hull needs to be smooth with no ridges for the product to work, as well as allow for shield to be mounted **above** the resting waterline. Please contact us if you have questions regarding your jet ski.

### **My boat or PWC is new. Is there anything special I need to do before I apply my KeelShield keel guard?**

When you receive a new boat there is still mold release wax on the surface. If you follow the KeelShield directions exactly as they are written then you will not need to do anything special. It is very important to do each step exactly as they are described in the instructions.

### **Can I mark the centerline with a pencil to make it easier to line up the KeelShield?**

You can make a light pencil line down the centerline after you abrade the boat but before you do the final cleaning of the surface. Enough of the line will remain so you can align the KeelShield protector on center.

### **Will KeelShield Keel Protectors affect the performance of my PWC or powerboat?**

Boats will notice no effect on either speed or handling. PWC tests have shown that KeelShield protectors may increase the speed of your PWC slightly and increase the tracking ability.

### **Once I Have Applied My KeelShield Keel Protector Is There Anything Else I Need To Do?**

Yes, Make sure you have applied pressure inside the grooves with the squeegee. It is important that pressure has been applied to all surfaces, both ridges and grooves, to assure a 100% bond.

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Once the surface is prepared DO NOT TOUCH IT. The oils in your skin will neutralize the adhesive thus causing adhesive failure. Do not touch the prepared surface or the tape during application.

## **How do I clean the excess primer and KeelShield after application?**

You can use a clean rag and some alcohol to clean away the excess primer from the hull. The alcohol will also clean the KeelShield of any dirt or shipping marks.

## **Is There Any Way I Can Check My Work?**

Yes, using the squeegee, press hard on the edges, grooves and the ends to make sure the KeelShield is secure. If you have missed one area and it is possible there are others. Remember, it is very important that you have full contact of the adhesive to the hull for a full bond.

## **How do I cut my KeelShield Keel Protector?**

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## **How do I access the bottom of my PWC?**

The easiest way is to roll it over onto its side. Take a 2x4 or something that will support the PWC on its side. From there the application should be a snap.

We have plastic docks that you drive up on. Is that a problem?

Yes, because the material that KeelShield is made out of and the plastics the docks are made of grab and do not slide on the docks. We recommend that you do not install KeelShield.

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NO! Once you have applied the adhesive to the prepared surface it will not come off. So please be sure that you are starting where you planned to and that you have lined the KeelShield protector on the center.

## **How far back should the KeelShield go on my PWC or Boat?**

For boats the KeelShield must go far enough aft to cover any area that will be on the beach, plus one (1-2) foot extra. It is very important that the trailing edge of the KeelShield never touch the sand. Remember KeelShield protectors can never be too long. Please refer to the



sizing chart. If this length is not long enough to reach past the present wear, add the additional length and order accordingly.

When installing on a PWC, the KeelShield protector should go all the way aft until it is 1/4" from the intake grate (Note: do not apply the KeelShield protector to the intake grate itself). This will allow the PWC to be pulled on and off a beach without wearing on the aft end.

### **How much Skeg do I need left to attach a SkegShield?**

To repair a fully damaged Skeg, you will need a minimum of 2"-3" inches left to securely attach the SkegShield Skeg Guard for optimal performance and reliability.

### **Will mounting a SkegShield void my new motor Warranty?**

If your motor is still under warranty, we recommend you consult with your engine manufacturer and dealer before installing a SkegShield skeg guard.

# GATOR PATCH - FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



Gator Patch is a Fiberglass Reinforced Polyester Patch that is easy to use and apply with our Prep-Peel-Stick application. Cures with simple UV sunlight in under an hour. Features extraordinary bonding, reliability, and strength. Perfectly matched as a kayak keel guard and repair patch. Made to stick to and repair unforgiving surfaces like Plastic Kayaks, Gas Tanks, Fiberglass, Aluminum, and more.

## USAGE

### **How does Gator Patch Work?**

Simple! Just prep-peel-stick and let it sit in the Sun to cure. You'll need to sand and etch the surface with sandpaper, clean with isopropyl alcohol, apply with firm pressure, and place in the UV Sunlight for an hour to cure.

### **What is the lifespan of Gator Patch used as a Keel Guard or Skid Plate?**

The lifespan is variable depending on a multitude of factors such as the weight of the boat, usage, and surface types. The patch is not indestructible— it will sand down over time with use, taking the wear and tear of the elements instead of your hull receiving the costly damage.

### **Why do you recommend multiple layers of Gator Patch for Boats over 100 pounds?**

The heavier the boat, the more abuse, pressure, and wear Gator Patch will receive. Multiple layers ensure you have built up material thickness to accept this accelerated wear.

### **How does Gator Patch adhere to the surface of my kayak, boat, tank, etc?**

The Gator patch benefits from both a **physical bond** through the grip on the sanded etching & curves/edges of the item it is conformed to – as well as the **chemical bond** with its special adhesive. The better prep, and larger surface area of the patch size, exponentially increases its overall bond & grip, especially for impact resistance.

### **What is Gator Patch made of?**

Gator Patch is a special blend of Polyester Resin and Fiberglass in a Patch form with a UV light activator.

## **What Size Gator Patch do I need?**

### **SIZE CHART - Recommended Uses**

**3×4"** – Emergency Repairs, Day Pack Item

**3×6"** – Single Light Wear Area or Repair

**6×9"** – Multiple Wear Spots or Layers

**9×12"** – Maximum Coverage & Multiple Layers. Recommended for Hobie, NuCanoe, Wilderness, Jackson and other larger kayaks as a keel guard and skid plate protector.

## **PREP & INSTALL**

### **How long does Gator Patch take to cure in the Sun?**

Gator Patch – using UV light to activate and cure, does directly rely on your current UV intensity to estimate curing time. Summertime in Texas, the patch may cure in minutes. Wintertime in Wisconsin, it may take upwards of a day or more to fully cure

### **Does weather, season, or location effect curing process?**

Yes, Gator Patch relies on the UV Light intensity. All of these weather factors can play into curing time. You may also use a UV emitting light (common blacklight) to cure the patch indoors or during non-optimal times.

### **Can I use something besides sunlight to cure Gator Patch?**

YES, You can use a UV emitting light to cure indoors. Your common blacklight has this feature, and varies on UV intensity.

### **How do you apply multiple layers of Gator Patch?**

Gator patch can be applied in multiple layers to increase strength and wear thickness. You'll need to make sure each layer is **completely cured** before prepping the surface and applying the next patch layer according to the instructions.

### **How can I mold Gator Patch around a sharp bends and angles on the Keel?**

You can cut "V" notches into the sides of your Gator Patch to help bend the material around these extreme angles, and still have clean and smooth edges. Gator Patch already comes as a flexible material to fit and conform to most situations, but with being a flat piece of material you may experience wrinkles around sharp bends.

### **How do I get the edges to stick better?**

To increase the bond and seal at the edges of the material, we recommend you use a roller, or your fingers, to apply firm and even pressure to the entire edge area.

## How do I know Gator Patch is fully cured?

To test that Gator Patch is fully cured, you can do some simple tests. You should not be able to scratch, mark, or imprint your fingernail into the material and the edges. The Patch will also lose its glossy "sheen" and become a matte gray color.

## How do I cure Gator Patch if its on the bottom of my boat, not receiving direct sunlight?

You can use a Mirror or a reflective windshield cover, laying it on the ground to reflect the UV rays to your patch. You may also use a UV emitting blacklight if inside.

## Can opened Gator Patch be Reused?

YES, Gator Shield is good up to 6 months from when the package is opened and resealed. You can cut to size, and seal up and store the remaining patch in the zip-lock package.

# APPLICATIONS

## Does Gator Patch work on Kayaks, Canoes, or Stand Up Paddleboards?

YES, Gator Patch works on almost every surface except for polypropylene, which is most commonly found in rope and cheap pool toys & inflatables. Gator Patch works on Polyethylene, ABS Plastic, Fiberglass, Aluminum, Wood, and more.

## Does Gator Patch work on plastic fishing boats - such as Bass Raider, Sun Dolphin Sportsman, or Prowler Boats?

Yes, Gator Patch works great to repair and protect these plastic fishing and paddle boats. If you are using Gator Patch as a skid plate or keel protector on these boats, you will **NEED multiple layers** of the patch due to the heavier weight of these boats. See the Enhancing Lifespan Portion of the FAQ for more information.

## Do you offer different colors than Gray?

No, Gator Patch is fully sandable and paintable once cured. You can, and we recommend, painting the patch with a quality enamel spray paint to match the color of your application and provide added wear protection.

## What Size Gator Patch do I need to buy?

### SIZE CHART – Recommended Uses

**3×4"** – Emergency Repairs, Day Pack Item

**3×6"** – Single Light Wear Area or Repair

**6×9"** – Multiple Wear Spots or Layers

**9×12"** – Maximum Coverage & Multiple Layers. Recommended for [Hobie](#), [NuCanoe](#), [Jackson](#), [Wilderness](#) and other larger kayaks as a keel guard and skid plate protector.

### **Can I repair fiberglass with Gator Patch?**

Yes, Gator Patch is a great fiberglass repair material. You can use it to quickly and permanently patch up holes, cracks, and more. Due to the strength and integrity of Gator Patch, you can use it for an added structural component of your fiberglass repairs. It is fully sandable and paintable for a finished look.

### **Can I repair an aluminum boat with Gator Patch?**

Yes, Gator Patch works great at sealing up holes, cracks, and more. It's a quick and simple permanent solution to sealing up transducer, rivet, and other holes in aluminum boats. You can even use it to repair small cracks and rust areas on your steel trailers.