



KeelShield Product Review

Reviewed By: Sean Smith

Product Reviewed: KeelShield by K S Marine Products Inc. (Red 7')

Product Acquired from: K S Marine Products Inc.

Date Acquired: March 2008

Testing Location: Central US Lakes and Rivers

Testing Equipment: 2002 Skeeter ZX250 21' Bass Boat



Installed 2002 Skeeter ZX-250

It's nothing new, if you're a bass boater, you've seen them seemingly everywhere. A KeelShield is getting to be standard equipment on fiberglass bass boats, and is in fact available as a factory installed option from select manufacturers. Personally, I have used this type of product from every manufacturer, and here are my thoughts on the KeelShield product and it's usefulness to boaters.

Initial Impressions:

My KeelShield product arrived nicely packaged and included all the necessary tools to complete the job. One of the main differences in the KeelShield is the urethane material used to make the product. This urethane formula creates a product that looks great, is flexible but has a nice firmness to it that ensures protection for the keel area of your boat. This formulation also includes UV-Inhibitors so you can be sure the color you install is the color it will be for many years to come. In my experience, the PVC products on the market are generally softer, while still protecting the keel area,



I believe they have more of a tendency to fade and cut when put to the torture test of UV rays, shoreline rocks, concrete and gravel.



Product Review (Continued)

Installation:

The KeelShield Kit includes everything you need to install it expertly, with the exception of common household isopropyl (rubbing) alcohol and a few paper towels. Originally, I had budgeted about an hour for the installation, but being my first time installing one, ninety minutes was plenty of time to complete the job with excellent results. The most challenging part of the job is getting the KeelShield lined up and centered on the keel, and getting the prep area outlined. I chose to use blue painter's masking tape to hold the KeelShield on, while taping the outline on the keel of the boat. This method worked well for me as I was completing this alone. I will note that a partner will definitely make this part of the installation easier. After this initial layout, everything else moves along pretty quickly, the included scuff pad works perfectly, remove the tape, clean the area thoroughly with the isopropyl alcohol and allow it to dry completely. Now follow the included instructions for the 3M Adhesive activator and the included application instructions.

Appearance:

I opted to go with contrasting colors on my boat, having a black polyflake hull, with white and red accents, and the appearance of the completed installation is nothing short of outstanding. The grooves of the glossy red KeelShield contrasted against the black flake hull really looks sharp and adds protection and value to the boat overall. The KeelShield Keel Protector is available in 14 colors, so whether you choose to color match, contrast or install a black KeelShield on any color boat, you won't be disappointed with the final appearance.

KeelShield Available Color Options



Product Review (Continued)

Value:

KeelShield pricing depends on the length of the product required to cover the entire keel area of your boat. Retail prices ranging from \$119.99 for the five foot version for smaller boats and personal watercraft to \$209.99 for the nine foot version for large boats. The KeelShield product is also directly available from K S Marine Products in custom lengths up to ninety feet. There are not many products available in this price range that will help preserve the condition and value of your boat as well as a KeelShield.



A KeelShield has become standard equipment for owners wanting to protect the condition and value of their boats. A must have product for all Boaters.

Final Impressions:

K S Marine Products has created a product of exceptional value that is useful to all boaters. The product quality is second to none and includes a 100% Customer Satisfaction Guarantee with a Lifetime Product Adhesion and Wear Through Warranty to the original purchaser.

For more information, product specifications, retailer information or special orders please see;

<http://www.KeelShield.com>

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