

Scotties Canvas & Marine Outfitters

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KeelShield® Installation Instructions

KeelShield® will adhere to crafts made of fiberglass, urethane, treated wood and all metals. Anti-fouling paint *must* be removed before installation. It will not work on pontoon boats, nor on boats whose trailers have weight bearing rollers or bunks that the KeelShield® will rest on. It will not work for Boats or Personal Watercraft that pull up on a Jet Dock or on Sea Doo personal watercraft that has the 4-Tec hull or the Yamaha with the VX hull design. It will not work on certain models of Alumacraft, Lund, G3 Angler Series and Crestliner boats. Our 12" width is for flat bottomed boats only. Please call if you have questions.

Items needed for installation:

- Isopropyl alcohol
- A roll of paper towels
- Your craft's hull temperature must be at least 70° F. This is the temperature of the hull itself, not just the ambient air temperature. The warmer the better. If this temperature requirement is not met, your KeelShield® will **not** stick properly.

Recommended:

- A friend for an extra set of hands
- A wax pen or crayon
- Painter's tape or masking tape

We also recommend sealing the edges of your KeelShield® after you install it with a marine grade sealant that is for below the waterline. If your boat is docked and in the water 24/7 you *must* use a sealant that is for below the waterline.

Placement:

Your 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.®.

Take your KeelShield® out of the package and lay it flat. Find your resting waterline. The leading edge of your KeelShield® needs to start 6"- 9" above your resting waterline. Once you have found this point, mark it with a grease pen, pencil or crayon. (This is where a friend will come in handy) Hold or tape your KeelShield® to your hull, with the leading edge placed at the point where you marked, and trace around your KeelShield® with a wax pen, pencil or crayon. Take some painters tape or masking tape and tape this area off. This is the area you will be preparing for the adhesive.

Your KeelShield® needs to begin ¼" below your towing hook on the bow and run the entire length of your hull, ending ¼" in front of your intake grate. If you have steps / chines / strakes that cross your hull horizontally, you can begin your KeelShield® behind them but you still need to run the entire length of your hull. If you do not run the length of your hull you will have adhesive problems. You must seal the edges with a marine sealant after installation.

Surface Preparation:

The following steps must be done with great care. If any step is left undone or done improperly, the adhesive will not bond and you will have failure. If the bottom of your craft is painted, it is crucial there is no peeling paint. If your boat has anti-fouling paint on the bottom you must remove it where the KeelShield® will be installed, as the adhesive will not stick to that paint.

Preparing the part of your hull that you have traced around is the most important step in installing your KeelShield®. Do not use acetone, lacquer thinner or any other cleaner or solvent to clean for your KeelShield® installation. ALL of these leave a film when they evaporate that will interfere with the adhesive and cause failure. Isopropyl alcohol (found at your grocery store or pharmacy) is the only cleaner that does not leave a film when it evaporates. Take your isopropyl alcohol and some paper towels and wipe the area you have traced/taped around thoroughly, do this until your paper towel does not remove dirt and comes away clean. Take the scuff pad that is provided and gently scuff the area you have traced around. If you have loose paint in this area you need to remove the loose paint with fine grit sand paper. You do not have to apply strong pressure; all you want to do is remove the gloss from this area. Once again, take your isopropyl alcohol and do a thorough cleaning of this area just as you did before the scuffing.

Adhesive Activator Instructions:

Be sure you are in a well ventilated area - Put the latex glove on and tear off the top of the activator wipe pouch. Do not unfold the activator wipe right away as the activator will

evaporate quickly. With your gloved hand, wipe the area where your KeelShield® is to be installed with a thin coat of activator, unfolding it as you use it. Let dry 5 minutes. If the activator goes beyond the area where your KeelShield® will be placed, after installation, clean the excess with paper towels and isopropyl alcohol.

Important!! Your hull is now ready for your KeelShield®. DO NOT touch your hull with your hands. You will leave oils on your hull that will interfere with the 3M adhesive system.

Installation Instructions:



For a moment, look at your KeelShield®. You will notice that 7th rise (ridge) is the center of the product. It may help you on the next step to take your wax pen, crayon or a piece of tape and mark the 7th rise.



If you taped off the area, remove the tape now. Take your KeelShield® and peel back about 1 foot of the *middle strip* of the release liner on the back of the product. This will expose the 3M adhesive. DON'T touch the adhesive with your hands or you will leave oil on it and will not stick! Carefully, line the center of your KeelShield® up with the center of your hull and gently press on with your hand. Be sure that you line up with the center of your boat since once the adhesive touches your hull it cannot be moved. Once you have pressed that first foot on, pull about 1 to 2 feet of the middle release liner off and continue to gently press on with your hand until you have the entire center length of your KeelShield® attached to your hull.



Now that you have the middle of your KeelShield® attached to the center of your hull, let's finish the installation. Do one side at a time. Pick one side and pull off about 1 foot of the release liner, exposing the 3M adhesive. Take your hand and start in the center and roll your hand to the outer edge, pressing your KeelShield® on. By starting in the middle where the KeelShield® is already attached, you are removing air bubbles at the same time you are adhering it to your hull. Once you have the first foot done, continue with the same side pulling off 1 to 2 feet of the release liner as you press from the middle to the outer edge. Once you complete one side go ahead and do the same process for the other side. Some of you may run into chines, steps or strakes that your KeelShield® needs to go over. If you can't get your KeelShield® to mold around them with your hand you can use the handle of a screwdriver. Take the handle and use it to apply pressure so KeelShield® molds around the chines, steps or strakes.

Now that your KeelShield® is attached to your hull, take the squeegee applicator that is provided and use the felt edge to apply pressure in the grooves and also to the rises. Pay special attention to all edges. This adhesive system is pressure sensitive so the key for the best bond is pressure. Now that you are done with the applicator, take your isopropyl alcohol and wipe all of the marks from your wax pen, pencil or crayon off of your hull and your KeelShield®. We recommend that you now apply a thin bead of sealant to the edges of your KeelShield® sealing it to your hull.

There is NO down time and you can use your boat as soon as you complete the installation process. But, if you choose to follow our recommendation and seal the edges with a marine sealant, you will need to follow the instructions found on the sealant for cure time before you use your boat.

Trailer boats: Make sure your rollers move freely. KeelShield® can not rest on weight bearing rollers or bunks. The friction caused when your boat is transported will eventually cause the KeelShield® to de-laminate.