

KeelGuard

Application Instructions

Thank you for purchasing your Megaware KeelGuard. You are now part of a family of thousands of boat and personal watercraft owners who have discovered the pleasure of worry-free boating. With proper installation, you too will enjoy years of carefree boating.

The KeelGuard is a very simple product to install: however, the following instructions must be strictly followed. Any short cuts or missed steps will jeopardize and compromise the full bonding capabilities of the 3M adhesive. **Please pay particular attention to the notes on new boats, aluminum boats, trailer rollers, anti-fouling and boat bottom paint.**

Typically, the KeelGuard is mounted 4 to 6 inches above the waterline on the bow, ending at least 2-3 feet beyond the lowest point of the Keel. If protection is required above the bow eye, a separate Bow Guard is available in 1 to 3ft lengths. A stainless steel bow protector is also available to protect against marring from the trailer roller or V brace. For personal watercraft, begin the KeelGuard approximately inch below the bow hook and run the length of the keel, ending 4 to 6 inches forward of the pump intake. (Installing the KeelGuard too close to the pump intake may cause cavitation on some PWC's). Also, some newer designed PWC's have stepped hulls that may require shorter lengths. Please contact Megaware KeelGuard to determine feasibility.

Installation consists of four basic steps; **1) Etching 2) Cleaning 3) Priming and 4) Applying or Burnishing.** Average installation time is 45-60 minutes depending on the length of the KeelGuard. Follow the same instructions for both aluminum & fiberglass boats.

Your KeelGuard kit comes complete with everything you need to professionally install the KeelGuard, **except** a cleaning agent used in step 2. EPA regulations make the shipping of this material cost prohibitive; however, the cleaning agent is readily available at most automotive, paint or hardware stores.

IMPORTANT! *Remember, the bond is only as good as the surface to which it is applied. Severe damage to your boat's keel, repairs that have not been done professionally, or any surface paint or gel-coat that may not have that proper bond to the boats original finish, can cause delamination of the KeelGuard, taking any loose or improperly prepared paint with it. It is important to have a good solid, smooth surface before you start.*

Note: If your trailer is designed such that the entire weight of the boat rests on the rollers or a support beam along the keel, we do not recommend installing a keel protector. If the rollers can be lowered or the side bunks raised to clear the rollers, the KeelGuard adhesive bond will not be compromised. May not be suitable for some aluminum boats with raised reinforced rib design. Please contact Megaware for specifics.

Step 1: Etching (Scuffing) Before application of the KeelGuard, the fiberglass mold release agents and wax must be removed. This step is extremely important and must be done thoroughly so that the full bonding qualities of the 3M adhesive can be realized. The removal of the release agent or any other contamination is best accomplished by using the 3M Scotchbrite pad provided in each kit. Etch or scuff the keel surface, taking off the gloss where the guard is to be installed.

This helps give 3M's adhesive a better mechanical bond. The supplied pad is a mild 320 grit and will not damage the keel's gel coat or paint. If you have access to a DA sander, this can be used instead of the Scotchbrite pad. We recommend not using anything stronger than a 180 grit sand paper.

Step 2: Cleaning After etching the hull, follow-up by thoroughly cleaning the area with alcohol, acetone, toluene, or zylene. The keel should be wiped thoroughly with clean rags or paper towels and then re-wiped with another clean rag or paper towel using one of the above recommended agents. Other solvents such as Acry-Lac cleaner, Liquid Sandpaper and Interlux 202 or other wash solvents containing Xylene or Toluene with Alcohol may be used. **Do not** use paint thinner or other petroleum based cleaners as they will leave a film and compromise the bond to the adhesive. Always remember to wear rubber gloves and read the manufacturers safety precautions when using these solvents.

Step 3: Priming After thoroughly cleaning the keel area as outlined in step 2, it is time to apply a very thin coat of the 3M #94 Keel Primer provided in the kit. Follow the instructions attached to the applicator. **Make certain that the entire area where the KeelGuard will be applied is primed, especially the edges.** The primer interacts with the adhesive to create a bond that will become stronger over time. Do not confuse the primer for a cleaning agent!

Step 4: Applying or Burnishing the KeelGuard Before applying the KeelGuard, it should be unrolled and set in the sun for approximately 10 minutes. This helps the KeelGuard become softer and more pliable, making installation easier. Usually laying the KeelGuard over the bow of the boat is enough to soften the material. If the KeelGuard is going to be applied during cooler weather, we recommend taking the KeelGuard indoors and unroll it until it lays flat and becomes pliable. The KeelGuard should not be applied when temperatures drop below 60 Degrees Fahrenheit.

The adhesive has a protective red plastic liner that has been scored approximately 1 inch wide down the center. This is done to aid in centering the KeelGuard. Carefully pull back the center liner or sheath 2-3 feet exposing the 3M adhesive tape. Start removing the sides of the protective liner being careful not to touch the adhesive to anything that could contaminate it, including your fingers. Align the KeelGuard with the center of the keel and press on by hand or with the burnishing tool. (Be careful not to touch the adhesive and KeelGuard to the keel until you are satisfied that it is centered and aligned properly. Once the adhesive touches the primed surface, it becomes a permanent bond and will not let go without tearing the adhesive tape).

Pull back the protective strips one side at a time 2 to 3 feet and begin pressing on with the tool. Work from the center out to ensure no air is trapped between the hull and adhesive. Do one side up to 3 feet and then the other. If you are applying the KeelGuard over chines or lifting strakes, leave about 2-3 inches above the strake unattached on each side. Press and bond under the strake first and then continue above and press on the remaining 2-3 inches meeting up with the already attached material. This will help relieve any stretching of material when going over irregular or protruding surfaces. Continue working toward the rear in 2 to 3 foot sections until completed. After the KeelGuard is completely attached, go over it again with the burnishing tool, applying strong force and pressure making certain that all edges are pressed down firmly.

Great! You are now finished and ready to enjoy worry-free boating. No curing time is required. The boat or personal watercraft can be put in the water. If you have any questions, please call us at 1-800-292-9835.