



## Teak Deck Dealings

In all of our research and countless boatyard conversations, we have yet to come across an established standard for caring for teak decks. Many prefer to let nature do the work, and they leave the decks to saltwater scrubs underway and freshwater rinses in the rain. Others are the nurturing kind who sand it, clean it, and oil it with a gentle hand. What follows is a sampling of teak deck tips from those who know such things.

Jeff Scott, Teakdecking Systems: "We do not recommend any coating or sealer on a

teak deck...It is best to leave a teak deck in its natural state and simply keep it clean."

Ted Fontaine, Friendship designer: Once or twice a year, apply a teak cleaner and follow it with Semco Teak Sealer.

Beth Leonard, circumnavigator and author, *The Voyager's Handbook*: "After a passage or two, teak oil (on decks) turns black unless treated with an antifungal agent. It doesn't hold up to offshore passagemaking and will be scrubbed off after a few months of exposure to the sea and sun."