



One-part cleaners tested for this update (from left): Captain John's YachtShine, Teakdecking Systems' TCL 100 and TCL 200.

One-part Cleaners Part Deux

We recently tested a few products that were latecomers for the one-part teak cleaner test, which we reported on the March 2008 issue. This test update looks at the performance, user-friendliness, and eco-friendliness of Teakdecking System's TCP 100 cleaning powder and its TCL 200 liquid cleaner, as well as Capt. John's Yacht Shine. One-part cleaners are typically less harsh than two-part products and are easier to apply.

For easy comparison, we evaluated these using the same criteria and testing methods as we did with the products in the original test and the two-part cleaners. For the Value Guide listing the results of the March 2008 test, check out this article online at www.practical-sailor.com.

TEAKDECKING SYSTEMS TCP 100

Florida-based Teakdecking Systems (TDS) manufactures custom-built teak decks and cabin soles in addition to specialized products for cleaning and sealing teak.

The TCP 100 is a water-based powder cleaner designed for weekly or bi-weekly cleanings; it can be used full strength or mixed at various concentrations for light or heavy cleaning. Designed to not harm teak, caulking, hardware, or paint, the TCP 100 seemed quite benign during testing. It contains no acid or caustic soda and is not hazardous to the user or environment, according to TDS. More gentle than most of the products we tested, it had no smell. According to TDS, the TCP 100 was recently re-formulated and now includes a degreaser that "oxidizes to harmless components within 30-40 minutes after mixing."

TEAKDECKING SYSTEMS TCL 200

TDS's liquid teak cleaner, TCL 200, is designed for deeper cleaning, like those sessions maintained on a monthly basis. With a degreasing agent for removing stains such as soot, grease, or oil, the TCL 200 can be used full strength or diluted.

The sweet-smelling liquid is water-based, contains no acid, is not hazardous to the user or environment, and can be used to clean teak or other surfaces. According to TDS, the cleaner will not harm teak, caulking, hardware, or paint; however, it does contain Butyl Cellosolve, a skin irritant.

The TCL 200 is applied to wet or dry teak, depending on the level of cleaning you're doing, and then scrubbed with a soft-bristle brush or 3M scrub pad. A 10-minute dwell time is required.

Bottom line: The liquid was a bit messier than TCP's powder, but it did clean well. The degreasing agent is also a plus.

CAPTAIN JOHN'S YACHTSHINE

Made by the New York-based Brite Group—which also manufactures Boat Brite products—the YachtShine Teak Cleaner is billed as a ready-to-use "green" cleaner for all teak decks and trim. The maker claims that its chemistry deep cleans without damaging surrounding surfaces. The formula contains no phosphates or oxalic or hydrochloric acid. The biodegradable cleaner had no chemical smell and was the only product tested that advertises compliance with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's National Clean Marina and Clean Boating program. YachtShine requires no dwell time and only light scrubbing.

Bottom line: YachtShine cleaned well with no dwell time. Its ability to cling to vertical surfaces is a plus.

PS VALUE GUIDE ONE-PART TEAK CLEANERS			
MAKER	CAPT. JOHN'S YACHTSHINE	TEAKDECKING TCP 100	TEAKDECKING TCL 200
PRICE	\$17: 53¢ / ounce	\$10: 31¢ / ounce (full strength)	\$10: 31¢ / ounce (full strength)
TYPE	Gel	Powder	Liquid
ODOR	Slight smell	No smell	Slight smell
EASE OF USE	Excellent	Excellent (when not diluted)	Good+
ECO-FRIENDLINESS	Excellent	Good+	Good+
COMMENTS	Pros: Gel is easier to control & can be used on vertical and horizontal surfaces.	Pros: Can be diluted for more cleaning options; no damage to adjacent surfaces; has degreaser.	Pros: No damage to adjacent surfaces, has degreaser. Con: 10-minute dwell time.
Recommended			

CONCLUSION

The recommended picks in our 2008 one-part cleaner test were the eco-friendly Captain John's Boat Brite, Interlux's Premium cleaner-brightener, the Budget Buy Iosso, and the versatile Star brite Gel Teak Cleaner-Restorer. So how did the latecomers compare?

Testers really liked the Teakdecking Systems products. Both cleaned well, were inexpensive and fairly easy to apply, and the fact they can be diluted to cover varying degrees of grime is a big plus. They both get our pick for their versatility and anti-toxic nature. Captain John's YachtShine was easier to apply than Boat Brite, and it also meets the EPA's criteria for an eco-friendly product. It gets our recommendation over Boat Brite for a green cleaner. Iosso remains our Budget Buy pick.