

A Closer Look

A lot of research and testing goes into manufacturing performance sailing shoes. The result is that each shoe line develops unique ways to accomplish the same things. The Sebago Wave Extreme and Helly Hansen Hydrator Racing W (at right) both use a thin cord and cam system for lacing. Testers preferred the Sebago's elastic laces to the Racing W's nylon cord; its beefy, easy to use cam also was preferred. Each maker also addressed water drainage in its own way: Helly Hansen uses a system it terms W2 (water in, water out). Its Hydrator W2 Breathe has a perforated footbed (below left) that drains water out of the shoe to screened ports in the rubber sole (below, second from left). Its Racing W has a perforated midsole that drains through a cutaway in the arch (below, second from right). The Teva Atrato (below, right) has a screened heel box that allows water to drain.



Sebago Wave Extreme



HH Hydrator Racing W



HH Hydrator W2 Breathe



HH Hydrator Racing W



Teva Atrato

