

Teak Deck Caulk Comparison Tests: 2007



Between June 2006 and March 2007, *Practical Sailor* magazine tested seven leading deck caulks. The magazine compared each caulk's usage attributes and each caulk's long-term performance characteristics. The below summary table appeared in *Practical Sailor's* March 2007 issue.

PS VALUE GUIDE		TEAK CAULKS					
CAULK	TDS	MARITIME TDC	WEST MARINE MULTI-CAULK	BOATLIFE LIFE CAULK	BOATLIFE TEAK DECK SEALANT	BOATLIFE TYPE P	BOSTIK/SIMSON
TYPE	Silicone based	Silicone based	Polyether based	Polysulfide based	Polysulfide based	Polysulfide based	Silyl Modified Polymer
PRICE*	\$11	\$9.50 (Only by the case: 12 for \$114)	\$12	\$19 Cleaner: \$16 (pt.) Primer: \$18 (6 oz.)	\$16	\$68/ qt.	\$12.50 Cleaner: \$11.50 (pt.) Primer: \$39.50 (pt.)
TACK FREE	20-40 mins.	15-20 mins.	1 hour skin-over time	Tack free 1-3 days	30 mins.	1 hour	Skins over in 45 mins.
CURE TIME	48 hours	24-48 hours (full cure after 14 days)	2 days (depending on temp and humidity)	7-10 days	24 hours	24 hours	7 days
SANDABLE	After 48 hours	After 24-48 hours	After 2 days	After 7-10 days	After 24 hours	Not specified	After 7 days
TOOL CLEAN UP	Acetone/ Mineral spirits	Acetone	MEK	Life-Caulk Solvent & Cleaner	Life-Caulk Solvent & Cleaner	Life-Caulk Solvent & Cleaner	Simson Cleaner E
COMMENTS	Smooth, easy to apply	Smoother than TDS	Easy to apply; calls for Life-Caulk Primer	Comparable to WM	Application similar to Life-Caulk; no need to prime	Pourable; fairly runny; pot life 1 hour at 75 F and 50% relative humidity	Thickest; cleaner and primer have strong smell; calls for Simson Primer P
APPLICATION (1=THIN, 4=THICK)	3	2	4	4	3	1	4
PLIABILITY AFTER 8 MONTHS (1=SOFTEST 6=HARDEST)	3	2	1	6	5	5	4

*per 10.6-oz. caulking gun cartridge, unless noted