

# FOIL & HULL CONDITION

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So as it's the winter and I am sure you are all looking at the boat to decide what maintenance and TLC she needs before the new season I thought that this is the right time to post this tip. Just make sure that you bring the centreboard inside for any gel coat work as it won't cure off in sub-zero temperatures.

Well as I am sure you are all aware the foils are very important, they are constantly in the water with water flowing over them, any damage or unsmooth surfaces here will affect the efficiency of the centre board or rudder, will create additional drag and will reduce your progress to windward...this all equals going slower. If you think about it, and it's not rocket science, damage towards the front of the foil causes a bigger effect as the disturbed water from the damage/imperfection travels the full length of the foil, damage towards the trailing edge has less of effect. This principle is the same for damage or imperfections in the hull. Having said all that if you have a damaged trailing edge it will still cause increased drag.

So here's my tip, every time I bring the boat home ready for an open and I go to hang up the foil bag I do 2 things:

- 1) I inspect them and fill any damage with gel coat and sand back till smooth, this really only takes a half hour, then,
- 2) I polish the foils with a good quality polish, this puts them in the best tip-top condition and also helps the board slide up and down in the centreboard slot. The thought of those nice smooth polished foils cutting through the water in themselves makes me feel faster and confident...it's all about being at one with the boat.

Obviously having concentrated on the foils you should also inspect the hull for any dings, scrapes or damaged gel coat. The same principles applies in terms of more drag being generated the further forwards the damage is. So happy inspecting, filling, sanding and polishing.

