

# How to Wax a Surfboard Properly

I will show you how to remove and apply wax to your surfboard. Ok so it is easy to apply wax to a surfboard but I will show you the method to achieving large bumps of wax to achieve maximum traction.

## When to Re-wax..?

- When the wax has gone black and dirty.
- When there is a thick layer of it.
- When the wax is flat and smooth across the top of the board.

## What You Will Need

- Wax Comb
  - Wax for the appropriate water temp.
  - Wax Remover + Towel (optional)
- (I shall be doing this with the basic essentials as you have to wipe off the wax remover after you use it.)

## Step 1

- Get the flat (non-serrated) edge of the comb and get under the layer of wax and scrape it off. Try with different edges of the combs as they offer different pressures that you may find easier.

## (Optional)

Once you get to this stage you can now use your wax remover to make it easier to clean your board of all the wax fully using a towel. Or you can keep going with the comb. Remember if you use the remover remember ensure that none of the solution is still on the board when applying new wax

Eventually with a fair bit of elbow grease you will end up with a wax less surfboard.



Now for the part where you apply the new wax:

Step 2

-Using half a block of wax apply with the flat side of the wax and create diagonal lines parallel to each other across the board. Rub the wax up and down these diagonal lines.



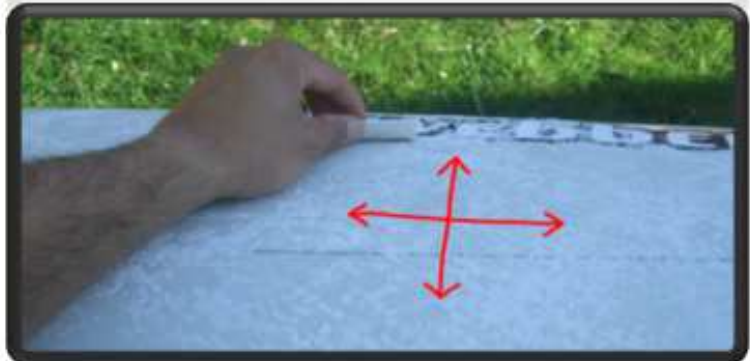
Step 3

-Now do the same as step 2 but at 90 degrees to the lines created in step 2. So that you end up with a chess board pattern.



Step 4

-Rub wax from rail to rail (i.e. left to right on the board.) To fill in the gaps in the chess board pattern. Next rub wax up and down the board up to the place where you want it to stop as with short boards you don't need wax near the nose of the board.



Step 5

-Rub the wax in spirals starting small then getting bigger. Do this over many places on the waxed surface. You will start to see the bumps starting to take shape and grow taller.



## Finished!

You should now have bumps all over your board that look like this. >



### Other Tips

-Some surfers put a base layer of wax down. This is where you add a layer of wax that is for a higher water temperature than you are using. So if the water temperature was freezing cold you would apply the 'cool' water wax before the 'cold' wax. This ensures that some wax will stay on even if the correct temperature wax falls off or melts off in the sea.

-If it is a new board and you are having trouble getting the wax to stick there may be a chemical coating on the glass of the board, so give it a light wipe with white spirit beforehand. I know this is the case with some skimboards.

-Do not use hot water to melt the wax off. Yes it does make removing the wax a lot easier but if the water is too hot then you can deform the board.

-Wax the correct side of the board (hint: the side without the fins.) Some newbie's think that it's the same effect as waxing a snowboard.

-Don't use iron wool to remove the wax as it leaves lots of tiny scratches in the glassed surface.

-White spirit works well as a wax remover. Do not let it touch the inner foam (via a crack) as it is normally polyurethane and this has poor resistance to organic solvents.