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TBS deck surfaces for yachting

Sailors for hundreds of years have set off on voyages of discovery, commerce and for pleasure across the vast oceans of the world, and in each case the objective is to reach their destinations safely.

For “land lubbers” even the thought and experience of slipping over and falling is one that each and every human being has experienced at some time with disgust. To sailors that experience may very well be the last event of their life.

As ships and yachts have improved in safety and design, the sway and the motion of a rolling deck can never be changed, it’s a fact of life for anyone who ventures across the seas for an afternoon day trip or trans-oceanic crossing.

With more than 330,000 nautical miles of sailing Stephen Wilkins and his new project expedition yacht Xplore has tried and tested just about every type of deck surface afloat. Teak, painted decks with gritted surfaces, plastic imitation surfaces, cork panels, diamond patterned tread and flexible beaded polyurethanes – there are so many out there on the market and everyone wants to convince you that theirs is the best.

Xplore travels to discover and venture in some of the world’s toughest, most demanding and dangerous oceans of the world, Antarctica, the Southern Ocean and Cape Horn. The weather conditions change so fast that what started out as a pleasant sunny day suddenly turns into what most sailors would call a nightmare experience.

After sailing the deep South since 2000 Stephen has become very accustomed to doing it tough, and surviving. Stephen’s views on the way to set up a safe and capable yacht is quite simple ‘Keep it well organised, uncluttered and make everything as user friendly and functional as possible. No matter what the conditions are, it needs to be safe’

“I first tested TBS as a product in 1999, as an Australian sailor I had never seen the product until I was there in Europe, at first I thought there was not enough to grip on to as the deck surface just seemed smooth, but quickly I realised that no matter how much water came on deck there was always a firm grip and a feeling of steadiness whether you were pushing hard in racing conditions at sea, or when there is snow and ice everywhere. I think the design of the product with the fine individual balls of polyurethane melded into a flexible composite panel is excellent”.

“When we re-designed and modified Xplore for the South, we worked with TBS hands on. It’s easy to use, measure, cut and apply, with the self adhesive backing all you need is a clean, smooth area and it sticks and stays. The edge sealing compounds that TBS supply just means that it stays where it was laid and lasts.”

Any sailor worth his “Salt” will of course look at the myriad of surface coatings available on the market, but if you are considering re-surfacing, or building a new yacht then I do highly recommend that you look at the range of TBS products for exterior or internal applications. It looks great, is excellent under foot in hot or cold conditions and is so easy to keep clean if spills or grime get onto it.

Get in touch with TBS or email me for any other questions, because Dollar for Dollar TBS’s initial cost and its life span leaves the others for dead.

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