

Painless, stainless

Fight oxidation with this easy-to-apply rust remover

The marine environment is a harsh place for stainless steel, especially some of the low-grade stuff now being produced, and dealing with rust is a real bugbear for any boater. I tested a new product, **Spotless Stainless**, that claims to remove rust and 'surface iron' that causes rust on stainless steel. The kit costs £24.99 and contains a one-pint bottle of solution and brush. I tried it on two stainless steel fittings: a folding step and a circular access hatch. The semi-opaque gloopy substance was easy to apply and formed a white foam on the surface of the fittings.

On the packet it suggests the higher the temperature, the better the results, and that the solution must not be allowed to dry out. The circular hatch was in direct sunlight, so during the 30-minute application time, I had to reapply the solution at regular intervals. The trick is to get plenty on at once, to avoid drying.

On textured surfaces such as the step, the brush is ideal for stippling and getting right into grooves.

After 30 minutes the solution was sponged and rinsed off easily. I left the surface of the hatch remarkably shiny straight away. The step required a few more attempts; it seemed to struggle with the ingrained rust in the textured grooves. But it was still a noticeable improvement.

Because Spotless Stainless likes heat to work efficiently, it is not a product to be used on a boat in the winter. However, I found that by removing smaller fittings and taking them home you get some excellent results. Just place the fittings in a plastic container, apply the solution and leave it somewhere warm.

Claire

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Price: £24.99
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A brush is ideal for applying the product thoroughly



Fittings like this folding step could be taken home for even better results