

STAY AFLOAT EMERGENCY LEAK PLUG



£16.99

This was one of the 'wow' products at the Southampton Boat Show for me this year.

The video playing on the Roche Marine stand showed the material being plugged into a snapped off seacock which was gushing water. It looked like it achieved the impossible; an immediate repair in a wet, dirty leak, but would it work as well in real life? It's basically some kind of odorless sticky by-product of crude oil manufacture, something between candle wax and thick grease in consistency. When the tub is upturned and hit on a hard surface, the material comes out in a whole block that's waxy to the touch but lumps can be torn off with the fingers as it melts slightly with body heat. Having been impressed with the video of this stuff in action we took the sailing club tender about 20 oar strokes away from the shore and mimicked a hull breach by unscrewing the centre



Stay Afloat fixed our 'leak' even on this dirty, flaky GRP surface.

bung. Even while distracted by sporting the least masculine lifejacket and hat combo ever seen on Southampton Water, it was the work of 20 seconds to open the tub, knock out the contents, scoop a bit into a hand



and shove it into the spurting hole. The leak was fixed instantly and completely. Upon removing the plug we noted that it peeled off without leaving any nasty residue, which isn't a concern when it comes to saving a boat in real life, but handy to know. We then decided to let the boat begin to sink a bit more. A few minutes later we had it half full

so tried the plug again, with the dirty Stay Afloat material we had already used. It worked again, perfectly and immediately stopped all the water ingress. Be aware though that this product has little heat resistance (it melts) so it cannot be used on engine hoses. *JF*

WE LIKE

- Simple to use.
- Could save your boat.

WE DON'T LIKE

- Doesn't work on or near engines.

VERDICT



This is the most impressive marine product I have seen for a long time, miles better than wooden plugs. EVERY boat should have a tub, from small canoes to ocean going yachts.

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