



Getting Your Boat Ready!

As we swing into spring, temperatures volleying from 30 to 70 (the teaser) and then mostly 40, time for getting your boat ready for that shakedown sail or cruise. It can be done at the boatyard or in your yard, in our case at C dock. We had decided that Earth Day would be the right day to launch, coinciding with my elder brother Eric's birthday. Well Montrose had other ideas and told us they wanted to be done by then and said they'd drop it in on the 18th, in the snow.

So, pressing on, not ready, we are at C dock. We've neglected the teak for 15 years and it's time to spruce up the wood. It's best to remove the teak and wet sand it, some have even told me they take it in the shower with them to sand. Whatever your preferred method it's best not to varnish the wood while on the boat in case you drip on the gelcoat. But if you're pressed for time or a bit lazy, how do you remove varnish from gelcoat? First & foremost, everyone has their own ideas on this and there are literally thousands of YouTubes on what not to do.

When working with any toxic substance you'll need an N95 mask. Where do you find this? (lol) I probably have five boxes of these and latex gloves from the pandemic.....FUN. The main point is, the only thing I can find that works is acetone. It will not destroy the wood, but it will strip off any wax on your fiberglass and turn it caulky.

All too soon the creatures with 8 legs and heads the size of dimes will be moving aboard. How do you get rid of the nasty pains? There is a product called Star Brite Spider Away , doesn't work that well. And of course, the environmentally friendly ways....hang stringers (I don't know what that means), sticky tape, spray dock lines with essential oils, hang fabric sheets, moth balls (Ugh!) and to find out what works, there is patience and persistence. Mainly....CLEAN YOUR BOAT!!! Works for me, anybody have a power washer? Once upon a time I was at a star dock and a hose was a dream. Went out for a sail, motoring out of Belmont bucketing water over Jeff's hands, getting rid of the spiders crawling all over him (Hehe....gross). Welcome to boating season!!!

Jennifer

"And it's a fair wind blowin' warm out of the south over my shoulder...I guess I'll set a course & go"

Wooden Ships (Crosby, Kanter, Stills)