



Product Information

XC Ski WAX

Keep your ski and snowboard bases waxed to prevent oxidation.

Keeping polyethylene ski or snowboard bases coated with wax will prevent oxidation. Oxidized ski bases are not only slow (Ugh!) but they are easier to damage (Ouch!!) as well.

Level 1 Glide Waxing (Wipe on waxes - No heat):

Waxless Classical Skiers (No special tools required):

Toko Grip & Glide is formulated for use on both the kick zone and glide zone of no wax skis. It protects the base from oxidation, reduces icing and improves glide.

Entry Level Skating Skiers, Snowboarders and Alpine Skiers:

Fast Wax Slick is a universal wipe on glide wax. It improves glide and aids in preventing oxidation of your ski or snowboard base. It needs to be applied more often than iron-in wax but is much easier to use. Fast Wax also offers four temperature specific wipe on waxes for those who don't want to iron but want faster, more temperature specific wax. The best option for waxing without heat is the new Toko Irox. Spray it on and rub in with a cork, thermo pad or Fiberlene. It can also be applied with heat as follows for even better results: Spray on, iron in, wait 10 minutes and brush off the excess wax. There's less mess and it's easier to apply than bar wax.

Level 2 Glide Waxing (Recreational Skating Skiers, Snowboarders and Alpine Skiers):

Tools & Supplies:

Plastic scraper - Keep more than one on hand and keep them sharp. Scrapers get covered with wax and become dull so it helps to have a spare.

Groove Scraper - Glide wax needs to be removed from the groove during the scraping process. A good groove scraper will help you avoid gouging your ski base when scraping the groove.

Toko Sharpener - Plexiblade sharpener for 3, 4, 5 and 6 mm (1/8", 3/16", 5/32" and 1/4") blade width. With ceramic disc.

Nylon brush - For brushing out paraffin waxes.

Horsehair brush - For brushing plastic wax & fluoro wax. Never use with paraffin waxes.

Brass brush - For aggressive brushing & cleaning - will put some structure in base. Removes oxidized scale.

Wax remover - Used for cleaning skis before waxing. (Note: Hot scraping with Fast Wax Base Prep is another good option)

Wax bench or ski vise - It helps to support the ski so you can work on it with both hands. In a pinch, you can wax your skis by suspending them between two chairs. Hold the ski with one hand and work with the other hand or get a friend to help by holding the ski.

Wax iron - Wax irons start at about \$30. Use a waxing iron instead of an old clothing iron. Wax in the vents of steam irons has been known to catch fire. In addition, clothing irons don't have enough mass to evenly hold the heat while waxing. The resulting temperature fluctuations can cause the iron to become too hot and may damage the ski base.

Types of Glide Wax:

- 1) Paraffin Glide Wax** - Paraffin hydrocarbon based wax. Easy to use and has a low melting point. Used for medium to warmer conditions.
- 2) Synthetic Glide Wax** - Plastic hydrocarbon based glide wax used for colder conditions. Plastic hydrocarbons have a higher melting point than paraffin hydrocarbons. Scrape these waxes while they are still slightly warm.
- 3) Fluorinated Wax** - Repels water and dirt. Use mainly in high humidity conditions on dirty snow but can be fast on moist clean snow.

Applying Glide Wax (Skating Skis):

How Glide Wax Works: Glide wax alters the hardness of the base of the ski. The goal is to make the ski base slightly harder than the snow crystal that you will be skiing on.

Base prep: New skis usually have little or no wax in the base. Apply several coats of base prep wax following the directions for applying glide wax below.

Wax for the Day

- 1) Clean the ski with wax remover and tissue.** (Dirty skis are slow skis so don't iron the dirt into the pores.)
 - 2) Applying Glide Wax** - Hold the wax against the iron and drip the molten wax onto the ski. If the wax smokes turn the iron temperature down. It may smoke a little when touching the wax bar to the iron, but when you start ironing the ski base will cool the iron a little and it may be ok. (Use the coolest setting that melts the wax.) Keep the iron moving until the entire ski is coated with wax then do a "slow drag" of the iron from tip to tail (should take about a minute). Clean the wax out the groove before the wax has cooled to prevent scratching the base. Lightly scrape the ski edge with the scraper at a 45° angle to remove the wax from the edge. Let cool for thirty minutes. Then scrape.
 - 3) Scrape** - The ski needs to be held by a vise (or a friend). After the ski has cooled scrape the wax from the base with a sharp plastic scraper. Scrape from tip to tail. Remove all the wax from the surface. You ski on the base with its pores full of wax and not on the wax itself. Scraping won't remove all the wax so it's best to remove the rest by brushing. However, if you're not racing you can skip steps 4 & 5.
 - 4) Brush** - Using a white nylon brush make short (1-2 feet) firm strokes as you move from tip to tail. You should see wax powder coming off the ski as you brush. Periodically clean the brush by "scraping" the bristles with the scraper to remove the loose wax particles. Harder waxes need the horsehair brush to get the last bit of wax off the ski base. You're done when you don't see any more dust coming off the ski. Nylon bristles
-

are bigger and remove the bulk of the wax. The horsehair bristles are smaller and stiffer and remove the rest of the wax. Horsehair is good for removing the wax from the structure.

5) Structure (Important to racers) – Most skis come from the factory with some structure already in the base. Structure or “rills” need to be put in the base to brake up suction between the ski and the track in wet conditions. Riling is most helpful when the temperature is above 25° and the snow is wet. A small structure will not adversely affect ski speed above about 5°.

HOT TIP: When skiing on dirty snow choose a wax which is one step harder because dirt tends to soften the wax.

Basic Waxing for Classical Skis

Snow changes in a variety of ways as it ages and as its temperature varies. Fresh snow is crystallized with many sharp points and old snow is granular and rounded like sugar. At air temperatures below 12° snow is very dry. At air temperatures over 32° snow is very wet. At around 27° snow makes the transition from drier snow to wetter snow. This is often referred to as transitional snow. To make skis grip well and glide well the hardness of the chosen wax needs to match the moisture content and structure of the snow. This isn't as hard as it may sound.

Tools needed: Wax iron, scraper, cork, a bottle of wax solvent, roll of toilet paper and paper towels. Refer to “Tools & Supplies” on page 1 for details.

Grip waxes: Grip waxes keep the ski from slipping backward as the skier steps forward. The area where the grip wax is applied is called the **grip zone** or **wax pocket**. The wax pocket should start beneath your heel and go forward to a point about 1/2 way between the front of foot and front of groove. (This is approximate to the front of the wax pocket and close enough for all but serious racers.) Recreational skiers may want to apply grip wax forward of the wax pocket to get more kick but should never apply kick wax behind the wax pocket. Performance skiers and racers usually keep kick wax within the wax pocket. Before each outing, apply the first coat of wax as follows: Crayon the wax onto the grip zone. Set the iron at a temperature that will not make the wax smoke and iron the wax until it melts. Rub the wax vigorously with a waxing cork until smooth. Apply one or two more coats by crayoning on the wax and corking until smooth. Old wax does not have to be removed before each outing unless it is dirty or is softer than the wax about to be applied. To remove old wax, scrape first and then finish the job with solvent.

Glide waxes: Glide waxes are used on the tip and tail (outside the grip zone) of the ski. See “Applying Glide Wax to Skating skis”. The method is the same but now you glide wax tips and tails only (Outside the “Grip Zone”).

Basic Rules for Grip Wax:

- 1) Use softer wax for warmer (wetter) snow and harder wax for colder (drier) snow.
- 2) A softer wax can easily be applied over a harder wax, but it is difficult to apply harder wax over softer wax.
- 3) Use the wax temperature range on the wax to decide which wax to use.
- 4) When in doubt, put the harder (colder) wax on first & try it. Apply a softer wax if you need more grip.

Recommended wax: Toko grip wax is available in a variety of colors (hardness's) for different temperature conditions. Sport & recreational skiers don't need all waxes to have success. Toko Carbon Grip; Base Green, Blue, Violet and Sportline Grip Warm Orange will handle most snow conditions making waxing easier for the Sport skier. Apply a thin coat of the Green Base wax and iron it in. Cork then add two layers of “wax of the day” and cork between each layer. The Blue works extremely well for almost all conditions below 25°. For Recreational skiers, the Toko Sportline 3 wax system is even easier but provides slightly less performance.

Start Grip Tape:

Start Wax offers Start Grip Tape. Most recreational skiers need only apply this at the beginning of the season and its good for the entire season. It performs extremely well in temperatures from below zero up to about 40°. Yes it actually works. A local racer successfully raced and trained on it from around 7° up to 41°.

HOT TIP: Removing Klistor and other messy kick waxes is easy if you know the toilet paper trick.

Here's how you do it:

- 1) Place the ski base up in a ski vise or have a friend hold it.
- 2) Spread a layer of toilet paper over the wax to be removed.
- 3) Lightly iron the toilet paper so it absorbs the wax.
- 4) Starting at one end of the toilet paper, firmly scrap the toilet paper and wax off the ski with a plastic scraper.
- 5) Repeat a second time if necessary.

Applying Pine Tar to those Old Wooden Skis:

- 1) Remove all wax from the ski base using a good wax solvent.
- 2) Apply a layer of pine tar with a small brush.
- 3) Warm in by heating the pine tar with your torch (Note: Void scorching your base - keep the torch moving at all times).
- 4) Remove excess pine tar by warming a second time with the torch and wiping off as much excess tar as you can with a rag.
- 5) Apply green grip wax to the entire base and then warm the wax with a torch and wipe off the excess. This puts a thin layer of wax over the pine tar so the tar won't “bleed” through the first coat of wax you apply.

Ski and Snowboard Storage

At the end of the season or any time you will not be using your skis or snowboard for an extended period, **glide wax with a single layer of wax but don't scrape it off**. Store the skis in a bag leaving the wax on the ski. This prevents the ski base from oxidizing. Ironing a layer of wax onto the base provides the most effective protection against oxidation for long term storage but the wipe on waxes will also work.

CAUTION:

Never jam the tails of your skis into a snowbank. Chunks of ice or rocks under the surface of the snow can damage the tails of the skis causing delamination.