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## CLEANING YOUR WALTER Keel Cooler

Walter Keel Coolers are sized at the factory to allow for some fouling from marine growth. A clean keel cooler (both outside and inside) will allow for maximum heat exchange. Over the past 60 years, our customers have found the following methods most effective in removing marine growth and deposits from Walter Keel Coolers. Please be mindful to use the minimum amount of force to remove whatever is on the keel cooler.

CAUTION: Always use appropriate safety equipment, including eye and hand protection.

## Exterior

As long as your Walter Keel Cooler is used regularly, the naturally anti-fouling nature of the cupronickel alloy that the keel cooler is made of, combined with the operating temperature will inhibit most marine growth. However, should the Walter Keel Cooler be idle for extended periods of time, some marine growth can occur.

Wire Brush - Using a wire brush either by hand, or mounted on the end of a cordless drill, is an effective way of removing a variety of marine growth.

<u>Pressure Washer</u> - The use of a pressure washer can be used as soon as the vessel is dry-docked (and before the marine growth dries and becomes hard).

<u>Sandblast</u> - If wire brushing and pressure washing are not effective against stubborn growth or deposits, some owners have used light sandblasting using fine blasting media. It is best to choose the gentlest blasting medium and work your way up. Walnut shells are one of less abrasive sandblasting media you can use and are completely biodegradable, so there are no concerns about environmental impact. Begin with a low pressure and increase only as necessary.

Note: The exterior of Walter Keel Coolers should never be painted or coated with any paints or coatings as these act as insulators, and can reduce the heat exchange by as much as 50%.

## Interior

If an engine problem resulted in oil getting into the cooling system, or if your coolant was improperly mixed resulting in coolant deposits (such as silicate dropout), the interior of your Walter Keel Cooler may need to be cleaned. The demountable feature of your Walter Keel Cooler, without disturbing inboard plumbing, allows for the easy removal of the keel cooler. Most "radiator flush" solutions are not recommended as they can damage the o-rings in your keel cooler. Once the tubes are removed from the end castings, they can be steam-cleaned, or a wire brush, mounted on the end of a wood rod, can be run through. Many have successfully used steam cleaners, power washers and cleaning solutions on the interior of the tubes. Make sure to replace the o-rings and #1B-G Tube Plate Gasket when reassembling/reinstalling.

Note: Always premix glycol (anti-freeze) solutions prior to adding them into your cooling system. This will reduce the possibility of accumulations (including silicate dropout) from occurring inside your engine jackets and keel cooler.