

Waxing a Jump

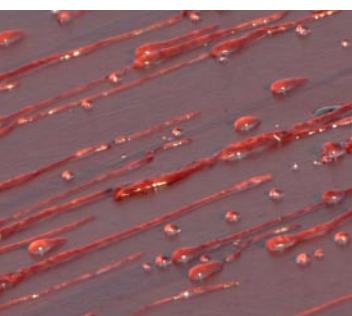
Written by Scot Ellis

Photography by Lynn Novakofski

Among water ski jumpers, there always is a lot of discussion about the different waxes – floor, paraffin or carnauba – used on jump ramps. I prefer a combination of paraffin and carnauba because the carnauba adds hardness and durability to the mixture. I also add coloring to make the wax a dark red, which makes it easier to focus on the ramp surface, which is especially important at

the high speeds of competitive jumping. Here are some tips for the proper application of a paraffin-based wax.

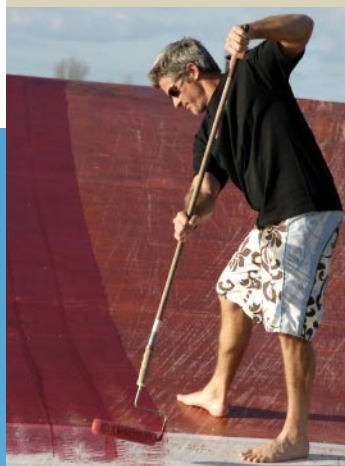
LEFT: Darker color and water beading up jump indicates a job well done.



Scot Ellis is currently ranked No. 9 in men's jumping on the IWSF's Elite Rankings List.

Important Steps

1. Clean the surface of all other wax and dirt by scraping or washing with a stiff brush and soapy water.
2. Melt the wax in a metal bucket big enough for the 9-inch paint roller.
3. Heat the wax to 270 degrees (320 degrees in colder temperatures).
4. Take the wax to the ramp covered to preserve the heat and prevent spilling.
5. Put the ramp at 5-1/2 feet (gravity will help you wax the ramp).
6. Have the low end and your 22-foot, 4 inch mark out of the water. Either float the low end or have some extra guys stand on the high end of the ramp.
7. Dip your roller in the wax, covering the entire roller with wax.
8. Start on the upper right side of the ramp and gently roll down.
9. Roll down and never back up your same path to ensure a smooth surface.
10. Once you are at the bottom, pick up your roller and start over with a new line.
11. When you are done you can scrape the lumps off the ramp.



Notice the difference in color of the newly waxed area.

Equipment Needed

1. Metal bucket at least 9 inches wide for paint roller
2. Burner for melting wax
3. Temperature gauge
4. Four paint rollers (extras for mistakes)
5. A pole to screw in the end of the paint roller
6. Metal wax scraper
7. Stiff brush for cleaning

What The Professionals Say

I prefer paraffin wax because it tends to go on thicker and lasts longer between wax jobs. I also like the feel under my skis, it's fast but not over slippery.

- June Fiaborg

I start at the top of the ramp and go to the bottom in one stroke until the ramp is done. I then take a paint scraper and go over the whole ramp, taking off the excess or thicker parts. The ramp is then super smooth and fast.

- Jason Seels

I like the paraffin/carnauba combo because it lasts longer. Wax that is not correctly applied makes the ramp rough and slow versus using one motion top to bottom, which allows the water to flow nicely and the wax to stay fast.

- Freddy Krueger