

WASHBOARD LEAKS

Every time it rained my Hurley 22 would end up with a couple of pints of water in the bilges. I had re-sealed all the usual culprits – deck fittings, windows, chainplates, stanchion bases, all to no avail.

Mine an early (1968) boat. This is recognisable because it has a spade rudder, no head lining and most obviously a window in the front. All these had changed by 1969. One other difference is that the internal bulkhead at the aft of the cabin is a GRP moulding. This includes the cabin steps and the lockers over the quarter-berths. This bulkhead was replaced with marine ply on later boats.

Eventually I discovered water running down the back of this bulkhead. The only place this could be getting in was from the washboard surround. As can be seen, the wood at the base had seen better days.



Once this had been removed, I was surprised to see that the internal bulkhead was just laid on top of the deck moulding. They were not glassed together, just 3 rivets and there was no sign of sealant.



The wood was also in worse condition than I had thought.

I cleaned the gap between the two mouldings, scraping out the dirt with a thin screwdriver, then folding some coarse glass-paper and sliding it in the gap to give the

sealant something to bond to. I then forced as much Sikoflex in the gap as I could. A new piece of wood was placed over the top of the internal moulding with more sealant underneath. This sits just forward of the washboard.



Finally a second piece of wood was fitted just behind the first which the washboard sits on and is about 8 mm lower. This provides a step and ensures that the water drains into the cockpit and not the cabin. Note that the original was just a single piece of wood, but the profile would have been difficult to reproduce.

