

## FIELD TEST

BRAD ROBERTS

# CLEANING POWER

Cleans, Polishes and Preserves.

I came across the Universal Stone at the Toronto International Boat Show in January 2009. I watched the demonstration, listened to the pitch and wondered. I walked away. But I wondered some more. A couple of days later, I wandered back and struck up a conversation with someone at the booth, a few customers came up that she seemed to know by name and picked up their “replacement orders”. One remarked to me that this was the best stuff she’d ever cleaned with. Ok, that was it, I was in.

I brought the 500 gram tub home and read the instructions. Invented by the Zielinsky family from Germany, the Universal Stone is a 100% biodegradable cleaner that cleans, polishes and preserves in one step. It’s a unique formula of compressed earth clay, natural soap flakes, and vegetable oils that the manufacturer claims won’t harm silverware (I’m thinking the chrome on my boat), windshields, barbecues, fiberglass and the list goes on.

It’s been tested by the Swiss Federal Environmental Board and certified as toxin-free, phosphate free and acid free. Perfect for small enclosed spaces on a boat where any harsh chemicals are nearly impossible to use without an oxygen tank and breathing apparatus.

So it’s January and I want to test this stuff, but my boat is under shrinkwrap. So I attacked our house. The Universal Stone is as hard as a brick in the container, and you’re looking at it going ‘how is this white hard powder going to clean anything?’. But it’s activated by passing the wet special sponge full of tiny air bubbles over the powder and working that into a foamy lather. The hard water stains on my shower door vanished with almost no scrubbing. This is cool! The kitchen sink gleamed stainless steel like it was brand



new, and the tap looked like it had just come out of a box. I couldn’t wait for spring to try it out on the boat.

Spring arrived and my entire stainless rail and every cleat was subjected to the Universal Stone. Small rust marks at the joints and around the screws disappeared. Stains on my fiberglass cockpit liner that no amount of chemical cleaners couldn’t touch, vanished. And my stainless bbq looked brand new again. The galley fiberglass countertop was next and after 20 years of red wine stains, hard water stains in the sink and a host of other unidentifiable marks, the Universal Stone had it looking as

good as new. And I’d barely used any of the 500 grams in that tub.

To say it’s a miracle cleaner would perhaps be an overstatement, but I haven’t yet run into the cleaning problem the Universal Stone couldn’t handle.

We’re always looking for new and unique items to test. If you have any suggestions for items you’d like to see tested in the Field Test column, please email [editor@powerboating.com](mailto:editor@powerboating.com).