

To Wax or Not to Wax?

We get asked this question all the time. As outlined below, there are pluses and minuses either way but the real answer lies within

NO WAX SKIS	WAXABLE SKIS
Glide is compromised by the no-wax pattern on the base, resulting in less glide for your effort (about 20% less in normal conditions)	Glide is always better if waxing is done correctly, resulting in more glide for your effort
Fast and convenient	Takes more time and effort
Waxing for glide only is easy and requires little time or skill (use "Easy Glide")	Waxing for grip and glide can be complicated and requires more knowledge, skill and equipment.
No-wax pattern on the base can be 'noisy', particularly when the snow is crusty or icy	A 'quiet' ski
Less expensive as little equipment is required	More expensive as more equipment is required

Common Questions: No-Wax Skis

1. Do I have to wax a no-wax ski?

YES.

2. Why do I have to wax a no-wax ski?

No-wax skis require waxing to provide a better gliding surface which will contribute to having an easier ski. Wax also protects the base of the ski. You do not have to wax the ski with a grip wax.

3. What part of the ski do I wax?

Tip to Tail! Yes, you do wax the entire length of the ski right over the grip zone! This will prevent snow build-up, particularly on a day when the snow is damp (packing snow).

4. How often do I wax my no-wax skis?

About every 30 kms or as needed.

5. What do I use on my no-wax ski?.

- a. Swix Easy Glide
- b. Swix Base Cleaner - eventually the glide wax builds up and needs to be cleaned from the bottom of the ski
- c. Swix Fiberlene - a special cloth that is used when using the cleaner.

Common Questions: Waxable Skis

1. How do I choose the grip wax?

- a. Choose your wax based on the temperature of the snow. Use air temperature as a guideline or use a snow thermometer and actually measure the temperature of the snow.
- b. Determine if the snow is new and fresh or old and transformed.
- c. Be prepared with several temperatures of wax in your wax kit

2. Where do I apply the grip wax?

On the middle third of the ski, from the heel plate up to 12-18 inches in front of the toe.

3. How can I make the wax last longer on my skis?

- a. Use a 'binder' wax on top of a bare ski base before applying grip wax.

4. How do I wax the Grip Zone?

You have several options when waxing the grip zone of your skis:

- Spray on Grip Wax (0C to - 20C)
- Crayon-style Grip Waxes – (preferred) different colours match different temperatures and wax is corked in. Cold waxes are 'harder' in nature while warm waxes are 'softer'
- Klister - used when the temperature varies greatly, on ice or when temperatures are above zero (never use a cork with Klister, use a scraper to spread it out).

5. How do I wax the Glide Zone? (The glide zone refers to the 'tip and tail')

You have options when waxing the glide zone

- Hot waxing, melting the wax in with an iron, provides the best results. Hot waxes can be universal or temperature specific.
- Temperature-based glide wax can also be rubbed on and corked in
- Universal F4 Liquid can be spread on like shoe polish and polished in
- Universal F4 Wax can be rubbed on and corked in OR used like a hot wax

Waxing Tips:

- Wax INDOORS if possible where the ski and waxes (and the skiers) are warm
- Skis should be clean and dry before waxing begins
- On waxable skis, use a Base Binder on the grip zone. This will allow the grip wax to better adhere and to last longer.
- Grip waxes are best applied in 3 or 4 thin layers and corked in between applications
- Most skiers don't cork enough. The friction of corking creates heat to soften the wax and create an even, consistent layer

- When applying wax on the trail, you can apply a soft wax (warmer temperature) over top of a hard wax (colder temperature) but not the other way around
- Beginners usually need a longer grip/kick area than more advanced skiers
- Use Fiberlene to wipe off the skis as it does not scratch the base of your skis or leave any residues
- The same colours of waxes from various manufactures are not always interchangeable.
- Pick one Brand of wax and learn to use it
- Clean and wax your skis at the end of the season to prevent the bases from drying out during storage