

Whiter teeth and speedier boats

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A Tampa dentist's search for a compound that will bring brighter smiles is bringing smiles to Wellcraft Marine's world championship racing team.

Dr. Keith Kent was looking for a finish to protect teeth from plaque when he found a compound he says will speed up boats by two to seven percent.

He received a patent Tuesday for the shiny new non-stick coating.

Wellcraft used the new compound on its 46-foot Scarab, winner of the world superboat championship last summer, Wellcraft spokesman Scott Grogan said.

The chemical improves speed by increasing the smoothness of a boat's surface, reducing its resistance to the water, Grogan said.

No other product reduces the resistance as well, he said.

"I can't endorse it, but I can say we were pleased with the results."

The compound, a new polymer, also protects car finishes from pitting caused by love bugs, Kent said.

"We treated a fiberglass boat hull and left it in the Gulf of Mexico for two years," he said. "It was encrusted with barnacles more than an inch thick when we pulled it out of the water, but they were easy to remove."

The polymer can make cloth, wood, masonry and plastic easier to clean, Kent said.

He is forming Kent Integrated Scientific Systems Inc. to produce and sell the product, called KISS-COTE, which so far has only been test marketed.

As for teeth, the product cuts plaque build-up, a cause of tooth decay, Kent said.

Will it help reduce tooth decay? "That's such a way-out claim, I don't feel comfortable making it," Kent said. Testing is needed to determine its effectiveness against decay, he said.