



EDITOR'S CHOICE

CAPT. CLEAN

BOATING EDITORS ENJOY THE ENVIABLE POSITION OF TESTING the latest and greatest products and getting paid for the privilege. That helps us separate the best from the bilge water when choosing stuff to use aboard our own boats. Here are some that have stood the test of time on Senior Technical Editor Kevin Falvey's Regulator.

What: Collinite 925 wax

Why: "I get deep gloss and long-lasting protection. Waxes on easy, and you could take it off by hand—but I recommend a machine. Adds UV protection." [shipstore.com](#); \$25

What: Interlux gel soap

Why: "The gel stays on the brush; a little bit goes a long way. Biggest plus, it's packaged in square bottles so it won't roll around onboard." [boatersworld.com](#); \$8



What: MaryKate Spray

Why: "For a vinyl leaning post and cushions, this is the only I've ever seen its equal. Spray it, and wait 30 seconds. Unless your cushions are totally trashed, they'll come back bright white." [shipstore.com](#); \$9

What: Soft Scrub with bleach

Why: "Best nonslip and fishbox cleaner out there, and it's half the price of dedicated cleaners. The bleach disinfects, and if you miss a bunker piece, once it's hit with this stuff, no more rotten smell." [doitbest.com](#); \$4

What: ShurHold Ultimate Maintenance Kit

Why: "Use the medium bristle brush for nonslip; the mop head soaks up small puddles." [boatersworld.com](#); \$80

BOATER'S COURT

I WAS COMING INTO a marina and wasn't sure of the depth, so the dockmaster sent a guy to help bring me in. The genius ran aground and did huge amounts of damage. Who's at fault? Who pays?

Richard, Ft. Lauderdale, FL

It depends. As a general rule marina employees who have been entrusted with the care of a boat have the legal obligation to use "ordinary care" while the boat is in their custody. By placing your boat in the hands of the marina employee, you assumed the risk of damage that went with it. In other words, you must prove gross negligence to see any dough. That isn't the case here. Now, if a dockboy took a sledgehammer to your boat because you didn't flemish your lines, you'd have some recourse. By the way, if you were renting a slip at this marina, the rental agreement would have a hold harmless clause against any liability. —**JOAN WENNER**



Fine Tuned

THEY SAY A dynamic sportboat, Chaparral's 246 SSI is exceptionally luxurious, loaded with convenience features. Plus, it doubles as a wakeboard boat. **WE SAY** The 246 SSI's center walkthrough transom sunpad lends a

yachty look, while providing more amenable aft seating than a corner boarding walkway. Want to tan? Flip over the filler and a comfy lounge results. Inside, check the head compartment. It's fitted with glossy, curvy wood

vener and designer plumbing fixtures. There's a drain and nearly 4' of headroom, but the decor steps up to cruiser level as evidenced by the faux-granite wetbar counter. Cockpit seating is upholstered in tough, supple Dura-Life Max vinyl. I liked the fresh design of the bucket seats as well. These open-backed swivelers have integral headrests and a grabrail for passengers standing behind them. A huge insole stowage locker is both padded and vented. The anchor locker could use a drain, though, and to me, the three-step bow ladder is a step short. Running the 246 SSI is fun. I spun hardover turns at full throttle and had no problem. Planing is fast enough for skiers and occurs down to speeds slow enough for boarders. It handled confidently in chop. Coupled to a Volvo Ocean Series stern drive, this is a great saltwater bowrider. **WHO'D WANT ONE** Guys who need a bowrider they can brag about. **OTHER CHOICES** Cobalt's 240 (\$69,679 powered like our test boat) and Formula's 240 (\$79,650 with a 270-hp Volvo Penta 5.0 GXi DuoProp stern drive). **THE NUMBERS** \$52,129. Contact: Chaparral Boats at 229/686-7481, [www.chaparralboats.com](#). —**KEVIN FALVEY**

BOATING

Certified Test Results

Chaparral 246 SSI

TEST BOAT POWER Single 270-hp Volvo Penta 5.0 OSi-XDP V-8 gasoline stern drive with 305 cid, swinging an F4 ss propset through a 1.96:1 reduction.

rpm	SPEED				EFFICIENCY				OPERATION	
	knots	mph	gph	naut. mpg	stat. mpg	n. mi. range	s. mi. range	run angle	sound level	
1000	5.4	6.2	1.2	4.5	5.2	291	335	0	75	
1500	6.8	7.8	2.2	3.1	3.5	200	230	1	75	
2000	8.8	10.1	4.3	2.0	2.3	132	152	5	78	
2500	15.6	18.0	5.8	2.7	3.1	175	201	5	84	
3000	21.9	25.2	7.2	3.0	3.5	197	227	3	83	
3500	27.1	31.2	9.2	2.9	3.4	191	220	2	83	
4000	32.1	36.9	13.7	2.3	2.7	152	175	2	87	
4500	37.0	42.6	19.1	1.9	2.2	126	145	1	94	
4820	39.1	45.0	21.4	1.8	2.1	118	136	1	95	

Advertised fuel capacity 72 gallons. Range based on 90 percent of that figure. Performance measured with three persons aboard, one-quarter fuel, no water. Sound levels taken at helm, in dB-A.

