

Hot Box Base Prepping

What is it?

A hot box is a sealed coffin like structure containing a fan, heater & a thermostat plus a rack to hold skis/boards in a horizontal base up position. It's purpose is simply to keep freshly waxed skis/boards warm for a long period of time to allow maximum penetration & absorption of the wax in to the p-tex base.

Why do it?

The benefit of this process is that one treatment is equivalent to performing multiple hot wax cycles (approx 5-10) which not only makes the wax treatment last waaay longer but greatly increases the longevity of subsequent waxings. A well saturated base makes it considerably faster & also makes the bases more durable which helps prevent against damage from scratches & core shots. World Cup race technicians use this process all the time to cut down the time/labour required as they'd normally be applying approx 50 waxing/brushing cycles to their skis before they even hit the snow! When they're on the road the WC techs take special portable heated ski bags costing mega \$ to allow them to perform the same process whilst on tour.

Who would benefit?

Hot boxing is therefore ideal for racers or simply for those who just want the ultimate in speed & durability from the bases of their skis/boards. Although a ski/board can benefit from hot boxing at any time it is ideal for new skis/boards or following a stone grind.

What's the process?

After hot scrape cleaning the bases & brass brushing to open the structure of the skis/board a generous layer of the selected wax is ironed in & then the skis/board are placed in the hot box for 4 hours at 120-160F, depending on the wax used. The bases are then left to fully cool before scraping & brushing in the usual manner ready for use. For best performance the bases would first be hot boxed using a special base prep wax & then after cooling, scraping & brushing they'd then be hot boxed again using a quality universal wax. Following cooling, scraping & brushing they'd then either be ready for use or ready for a racer to apply their choice of specific race wax tailored to match the snow conditions. And just like normal base waxing the more hot box treatments the better so Masters racers in the US often hot box their skis 5 or 6 times before use.

How much does it cost?

A single hot boxing treatment (only) is just £20.00 or it can be added to my #3, #4 or NS tune for just an additional £10.00

The maximum length of ski that can be treated is 198cm & the maximum width of board that can be treated is 340mm.