



TIPS: Ski Waxing Q & A, *by Simon*

How often should I wax my skis?

You should give your skis a wax at the start and end of each season. A quick paste wax top-up is great every few days on the snow, plus an additional hot wax would be advantageous after 12 to 14 skiing days.

Do I need to wax my waxless skis?

Yes! Waxless in this case is a bit of a misnomer. The term waxless applies to pattern based touring skis and refers to the lack of need to use *grip wax* for uphill traction. The non pattern sections should still be glide waxed for optimal performance. Even the pattern should occasionally be given a going over with a paste glide wax to prevent snow balling up underfoot. This is because a solid wax melted into a pattern will just fill it up, negating any traction completely.

Can I use a paste wax on the entire ski?

Yes you can, however the paste does not get absorbed into the ski base like a hot wax does. This means it won't perform quite as well, and will wear off quicker.

What sort of glide wax should I be using?

This is where it gets a little more complicated. Soft waxes are best for old, soft and wet snow, while a hard wax will be required for cold, fresh stuff. Considering our generally warmer/wetter conditions, your best bet would be a fluorinated universal wax for all conditions. (We stock and use Swix F4 universal wax)

What does fluorine additive do in a wax?

It has a very low coefficient of friction, and importantly it is highly electronegatively charged. This gives it hydrophobic properties reducing capillary attraction between water and the base. Result: more glide in wet conditions. It also repels dirt and oils in spring snow.

Can I wax my skis myself?

Of course. All it takes is a little time and patience. We stock most of the tools you will need. If time and patience isn't your gig we will do it for a small fee.

Find out more about waxing: www.swixschool.no