



COVER REUSABILITY TESTING AND RESULTS

BACKGROUND

One frequent question we receive from customers and prospective customers is: *Are Transshield covers reusable?* Like traditional shrink wrap, Transshield covers made from The Shrinkable Fabric®, are heat shrunk to fit snugly, leading some to assume they are single use. To clarify, our R&D team conducted a field test to assess the reusability of our covers.



TESTING

To provide a clear answer, the Transshield R&D team conducted a two-day field test, placing a Transshield cover on a boat, heat-shrinking it, removing the cover, placing it back in its box, and repeating this cycle until the cover was deemed unusable.

For this field test we utilized: our “shop boat”, which is a v-hull runabout utilized for test-fitting, a Transshield cover made of The Shrinkable Fabric, and a SF Tools propane-powered heat gun to shrink the cover. Our team went through the following steps during each installation cycle:

1. Removed the cover from its box.
2. Placed the cover on the boat.
3. Tightened the perimeter rope and all the under-belly tie-down webbing/ropes.
4. Heat shrank the cover.
5. Un-tightened the perimeter rope and all the under-belly tie-down webbing/ropes.
6. Removed the cover and folded it.
7. Placed the cover back inside its box.

RESULTS

Our team ended testing after going through *six installation cycles*. We stopped after the sixth installation because we saw a misfitting at the rear quarter where the cover did not fully cover the chime of the boat due to the numerous shrinking operations. Though still functional, in this instance we would recommend that a customer replace the cover to ensure full protection.



First installation.



Sixth installation.

THE TRANSHIELD COVER WAS SUCCESSFULLY REUSED SIX TIMES.



RESULTS (CONT.)



Cover rising above chime at rear panels after sixth installation.

In addition to the cover beginning to miss-fit after the sixth installment cycle, the following discrepancies were noted:

After the fifth installment: prior to heat shrinking, we noticed a small tear on the rear quarter panel sew line, caused by extensive stretching of the material while placing and removing the cover. To remedy this, we patched the tear with TransTape® and continued with the test, shrinking the cover and then uninstalling.



After the sixth heat shrinking operation: we noticed a small hole in the front of the cover. The hole was patched with TransTape.



In instances of small tears, holes, or burn holes caused by heat shrinking – TransTape is an effective patching option that matches our white material and allows continued use of the cover.

TRANSTAPE IS AN EFFECTIVE PATCHING OPTION THAT ALLOWS CONTINUED USE OF THE COVER EVEN WITH SMALL TEARS AND HOLES. 

CONCLUSION

This two-day field test proves that Transshield boat covers are reusable. We can confidently state that a Transshield cover can be reused up to six times if the cover and its components are taken care of during installation, removal, and storage.

For further information on this test please follow the link for an extensive video: [Cover Reusability Test](#)



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