



## FAQ – Frequently Asked Questions

### #150100 TruPlug Temporary Emergency Plug



#### What is TruPlug®?

Forespar's® TruPlug® is an award winning damage control tool. It is a tapered circular cone shaped plug about 9" (23cm) tall and 4.75" (12 cm) across at the base made of foam that is a spongy but firm cellular material and is coated with a flexible sealer adding strength and color.

TruPlug is used as a temporary or emergency plug in boating applications where water would enter a circular, oval, or irregular hole caused by emergency mechanical failure or hull breach due to impact.

TruPlug will stand up to diesel fuel and engine oil.

#### Why use TruPlug instead of wooden plugs? Haven't they been around for a long time?

**Ease, Speed, Versatility, Effectiveness. Easier** to use than wooden plugs because TruPlug is compressed entirely by hand with little force. As the foam quickly returns to its original shape inside the hole or breach (similar to the very popular foam earplugs) TruPlug reduces or stops the inward flow of water. No tools are required.

**Speed** - TruPlug is easier to find in your boat due to its emergency orange color, quickly compresses and inserts in seconds, expands immediately to stem the inflow of water, and there is no time wasted in the midst of an emergency looking for a mallet to pound in a wooden plug.

**Versatility** - A single TruPlug fits a wide range of hole sizes. Wooden plugs come in "kits" of 3 to 5 differing sizes and each plug typically has a narrow size range of only ¼" to ½" (6mm to 12mm) so you must find the right size. TruPlug adjusts automatically. Most wooden plug kits fit a narrow range of holes up to 2" (25mm.) A single TruPlug fits a very wide range of hole sizes from under ½" to over 3 ½" (12mm to over 89mm.) Wooden plugs can become hard as they age and/or swollen by moisture but TruPlugs store indefinitely and are impervious to moisture.

**More Versatility** - TruPlug naturally expands to fill oval, and irregular holes too. Wooden plugs work only on almost perfectly round holes. So if your hole is slightly irregular, a wooden plug will leak around the edges. TruPlug will also handle up to 4" (102mm) pipes, hoses, and

fittings. And it handles irregular holes up to 8" (203mm) in length depending on shape. TruPlug can also be cut and forced into elongated breaches using a putty knife or similar tool.

**Effectiveness** - TruPlug is inserted by hand and can expand to become watertight. Wooden plugs often need pounding with a hammer or mallet, which requires finding the mallet in the midst of an emergency. Wood plugs may also cause fittings to split while you pound them into place or as water causes the wooden plugs to swell. A TruPlug will neither damage nor cause increased damage to either your hull or your through hull fittings. As wooden plugs age they can become hard (and do more damage as you pound them into your boat) and can also become swollen before use from moisture which makes them even harder to use.

### Why not rely on my bilge pump?

Incoming water can easily overwhelm your bilge pump. Many bilge pumps handle 1,600 to 2,000 gallons per hour. That's only 27 to 33 gallons per minute. Incoming water can be from 30 to over 111 gallons per minute. A 2-inch hole just 2 feet below your waterline fills a 55 gallon drum every 30 seconds. Commonly used bilge pumps handle only 25% to 30% of this incoming volume. So you must stop the water.

For more detailed information see the flooding table at [www.forespar.com/truplug/](http://www.forespar.com/truplug/)

### How do I use TruPlug?

TruPlug is compressed and inserted into the hole stopping or reducing the inward flow of water as the foam returns to its original shape. Compress by hand (squeeze and twist as shown in TruPlug videos) and fully insert into hole or breach. Check out our video at [www.forespar.com/Truplug/TruPlug\\_Demo.shtml](http://www.forespar.com/Truplug/TruPlug_Demo.shtml)

TruPlug can also be cut with a razor knife and forced into elongated breaches using a putty knife or similar tool. TruPlug can be inserted into the ends of broken pipes, hoses, and fittings by twist compressing before inserting and will need to be held in place.

Because TruPlug is an emergency repair, damage control product it must be continuously monitored while in use.

### What kind and size of damage can TruPlug handle?

A single TruPlug can be used on a wide variety of damage: circular holes up to 3½" (89mm) diameter, pipes & hoses with inside diameter up to 4" (102mm), oval holes up to 3½" (89mm) across, and irregular holes up to 8" (203mm) in length depending on shape. TruPlug can also be cut and forced into elongated breaches as described above.

Multiple TruPlugs can be combined for larger holes.

TruPlug can also be forced into splintered hull breaches that could not typically be helped using traditional wood plugs or wedges, and these may only increase the size of these breaches.

### What about attaching TruPlug to your fittings as required by many sailboat races?

You can easily attach TruPlug via a lanyard or string to your fittings by poking a small hole with a spike or knife at the base of your TruPlug and running the lanyard or string through the hole. Many racing sailors like TruPlug and we have been asked to apply for approval from the various racing bodies, which is under way but not yet complete.

### What size is TruPlug and what is it made of?

TruPlug is cone shaped with a special base flange. 9" (23cm) tall, 4.75" (12 cm) diameter at the base.

The core is made of flexible polyurethane foam and the skin of organic pigment and resin. TruPlug weighs approximately 3.9 oz (110g) and density is 8 to 9 Lbs/CuFt (1.3 g/cc, 135 kg/m<sup>3</sup>)

Will TruPlug stop all of the incoming water?

TruPlug is not guaranteed to stop all water leaks, but it will greatly reduce the incoming volume of water and is designed to be used alone or in conjunction with other emergency equipment including bilge pumps.

It reduces or stops the inward flow of water as the foam returns to its original shape inside the hole or breach. So TruPlug will work in holes that are not perfectly round

How deep below the waterline can I use TruPlug?

TruPlug will work up to 10 feet below waterline so long as the plug is fully compressed and tightly fitted on installation and secured with tape or lashing. Because TruPlug is an emergency repair, damage control product it must be continuously monitored while in use.

How should I secure TruPlug once it is installed?

TruPlug is held in place by the foam expanding and pressing against the edges of the hole or breach. Once properly installed you can, if you wish additional strength, secure your TruPlug with duct tape or a lashing keeping the plug pressed into the application. You may also buttress it to hold it in place.

Because TruPlug is an emergency repair, damage control product it must be continuously monitored while in use. If you will be underway or towed while TruPlug is in use, keep speeds low to minimize external water pressure low against your plug.

What if my question is not answered here?

If your question is not answered here, please refer to the TruPlug Product Data Sheet at [www.forespar.com/truplug/xxx](http://www.forespar.com/truplug/xxx) or send us an email at [truplug@forespar.com](mailto:truplug@forespar.com)

**#150100 TruPlug Temporary Emergency Plug – Suggested list price\$19.95\***

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