

Florida firm claims patent for new non-stick coating

A new Florida company called Kiss-Cote has secured a patent for a silicone-based non-stick coating it says can make boats, autos and airplanes faster, more fuel-efficient and easier to clean.

"We can permanently siliconize a surface with a thin-film coating," says Kiss-Cote founder Keith Kent, a Tampa dentist and research chemist. His research began as a search for a dental coating to protect teeth from plaque.

The new coating is "selectively reactive so that it will bond to the substrate," Kent says, noting that the problem with many non-stick coatings is getting them to adhere to the surface being protected. The Kiss-Cote product, he adds, requires no primers or substrate etching to work. It is also said to be non-toxic.

Tests by Kent and colleagues showed boat speed improvement of 2 to 7 percent when the silicone system was applied as a hull coating. The new product has been evaluated by professional power and sail boat racers and manufacturers, Kiss-Cote says, and "Their results corroborated earlier findings." Several records have been set and races won by boats using the product, the company claims.

Kiss-Cote says it was issued patent number 4,839,456 on Tuesday, June 13.

at Kiss-Cote, Keith Kent, 813-962-2703