

# CURING CORE PROBLEMS

Core repairs range from straightforward DIY mini projects to remedies that require the removal and replacement of a good portion of the laminate and core. In the case of the spongy deteriorated cabin sole on a Cape Dory Typhoon (at right), the cure was straight forward. After probing the area to determine the extent of the damage, workers removed the rotted delaminated balsa core and flushed the area twice with denatured alcohol, then allowed it to air dry.

The next step was to fill the void once occupied by core material with an epoxy resin thickened with micro-balloons to the consistency of thick peanut butter. West System 105 or Interlux Epiglass epoxy resin are good choices for such a job. Each manufacturer markets a medium density filler that can be mixed with the resin and loaded into a caulking gun type of cartridge that makes application quick and easy. Care should be taken not to force too much epoxy paste into the void because the pressure generated can cause further



*Tell-tale crack signals core failure in the cabin sole of this Cape Dory Typhoon.*

core/laminate shear.

Once the filler has cured, the area was sanded with 50-grit paper to create a slightly dished out contour over the area where the cracks had occurred. Three or four layers of 10-ounce fiberglass tape were used to scarf together the tapered edges of the top laminate of the cabin sole. The stronger, higher density epoxy filler better resists flex and has kept the cracks from reappearing.