

## A NOTE ABOUT SAFETY

**W**orking with these strong chemicals requires taking a few common-sense safety precautions. First and foremost, **READ** and follow the directions on the container.

One test product, Star brite's Instant Hull Cleaner, shows a picture of a non-gloved hand (photo at left) cleaning a boat's waterline (presumably using the oxalic-acid-based product being sold). Yet, the directions recommend wearing gloves and the safety warnings caution against allowing the cleaner to come in contact with skin. We brought this contradiction to the attention of Star brite Marketing Vice President Bill Lindsey, who answered immediately that it was an oversight and the label would be changed.

Always wear gloves when using

these harsh chemicals. We suggest wearing the heavy-duty rubber gloves designed for use with caustic chemicals and acids. (Testers first tried using latex surgical gloves and then switched to household gloves. The cleaners left pinholes in these, allowing acid to seep through and leaving testers without fingerprints.)

Other precautions should include wearing eye goggles and a face mask. Work outdoors and keep children and pets at a safe distance. Protect what's under the boat: the ground, driveway, trailer, etc.

When using a sprayer or rinsing with a hose, be careful of wind and back-splash. And when cleaning up, remember that there is residual acid on brushes and buckets. Be sure to dispose of any leftover acid solutions in an environmentally conscious manner.

Don't make your own concoction by mixing ingredients, and don't add stuff like bleach or ammonia, as deadly toxic gases may result.

