

Sunfish Bow Bumper

Classic Sunfish have an aluminum rub rail around the boat to protect the rails and bow from being damaged when hitting something like a dock. Modern Sunfish have a fragile bow of just fiberglass. If your bow hits a dock, you are likely to crack your bow and need fiberglass repair. See example on the right.

There is an easy preventive item you can install on your bow, a small bow bumper. These are available through West Coast



Sailing and cost about

\$45. Be sure to select the correct bumper for your boat model, Classic with the aluminum rub rail or Modern without the rub rail.

<https://westcoastsailing.net/sunfish-bow-bumper-classic/>

<https://westcoastsailing.net/sunfish-bow-bumper-modern/>

apply the bumpers with acetone to remove any grease or wax. You could fit the bumper pieces “dry” and put marks on the boat so you can get the bumpers into the exact position once the silicone is applied. If you do pre-mark your boat, you could also sand the areas below the bumper



with 80 grit to increase the adhesion potential of the silicone. If you do sand your boat, be sure to wipe all sanding residue off before applying silicone.

Then apply silicone adhesive to the inside of your bumper pieces. You can use 3M 5200 which will make it a permanent installation (i.e. never coming off even if you want it to). Or you can use 3M 4000, which will also stay in place until you want to remove it.

Push each bumper piece on one at a time to spread the silicone and remove any air gaps. Then tape the bumper pieces in place with preservation tape until the silicone cures (about 24 hrs). You can try to clean up any silicone after you tape the pieces in place. Use acetone and a rag. Or you can wait until the silicone cures and then scrape any extra silicone away with a sharp blade. Your boat will be happier for this improvement.

