



What is a Hotbox & Why Use It?

A hotbox is a large insulated box that warms your skis to a predetermined temperature so that the pores in the bases open up and absorb more wax than you can apply even after multiple hot scrapes. If you typically hot scrape your skis to get deeper wax penetration and longevity, the SRRRC hotbox will save you time and money and do a better job. If you do not use hot scrapes or hot box treatments when waxing, your skis will be slower and more susceptible to oxidation and damage.

To use the hotbox, perform a couple hot scrapes to clean your bases, then iron in another coat of wax but leave it on the skis. Place the skis base up in the hotbox, set the timer for 4-10 hours, and set the temperature for 120–130 degrees. Toko's testing indicates that hotboxed skis absorb 2-3 times as much wax as skis prepared with multiple hot scrapes. They will be faster and more resistant to damage. After the timer turns off the unit and the skis have cooled, remove the skis. Then scrape and brush as you normally would.

Hot boxing is used for two purposes: getting deep wax penetration for new skis or freshly stone ground bases, and applying a longer lasting, faster race wax, especially for colder conditions. The more wax you can get to penetrate into your bases, the faster your skis will be, the longer it will last, and the better it will protect against oxidation and damage. Selecting the wax, temperature and treatment time is more art than science. Swix recommends a maximum temperature of 55 deg C (131 deg F). Toko recommends 62 deg C (143 deg F) maximum. Both companies recommend temperatures on the higher side for harder (colder weather) waxes. The literature indicates that skis in good condition can be damaged at sustained temperatures of 160+ F. Toko cautions against higher temperatures and longer treatment times for older skis. These instructions are based on Swix's lower temperature recommendations. Use higher temps at your own risk.

A softer wax will penetrate deeper into the base and at a higher percentage. Once that soft wax makes it in, it is easier for a harder wax to get there too. Without the soft wax treatment, the bases would never reach such a high degree of race wax penetration/saturation. For new or freshly stone ground skis, iron on a thick coat of soft wax such as Swix HC 8 or BP88 Base Prep, and place in the hot box at 120-125 deg F for 8-10 hours. It is recommended that you check the skis after 4 hours. If the wax has fully absorbed into the base, apply a second coat of wax for the remainder of the treatment time. After your selected cycle time, allow the skis to cool slowly, scrape and brush them out. Then, iron in a harder wax such as Swix 6 or 7, scrap and brush. This final hard wax treatment is important to help prevent damage and oxidation.

For race preparation on skis that have already been treated using the new skis method, iron in your race wax (either HC or fluoro) and place in the box at 125-130 deg F for 3-4 hours (higher temperature for colder waxes or shorter treatment times). Leave the skis inside the box as it cools down to the ambient air temperature. This slow cooling process is important to retain the most wax possible. Remove the skis, scrape and brush. Apply fluoro powder if desired. Go to your race knowing nobody's skis are faster than yours!

Detailed instructions for use are located on the hotbox in the basement of the SRRC Competition Center.

ATHLETES YOUNGER THAN 15 MAY NOT USE THE HOT BOX WIHTOUT SUPERVISION.

**USE THE HOT BOX AT YOUR OWN RISK.
SRRC IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR DAMAGED OR STOLEN EQUIPMENT.**