

## Splashtron

### Bill Moore's best removal technique for a hand working alone:

You're going to need a box cutter and a pair of vice-grips.

Take your box cutter and slice the coating lengthwise about every two inches to make long strips. Go all the way around the area to be cleaned. Make sure you cut it all the way through to the steel beneath. For smaller OD's, make the strip narrow enough that it does not have a whole lot of curve to it.

Take the vice-grips and grab a hold of the top end of one of the strips. You might need to use the box cutter to get the strip started enough to get at it with the vice-grips.

Once the strip is started, pull it away from the pipe with the vice-grips and use the box cutter to slice across where the backside of the Splashtron is still bonded to the pipe.

Pull and slice.

Pull and slice.

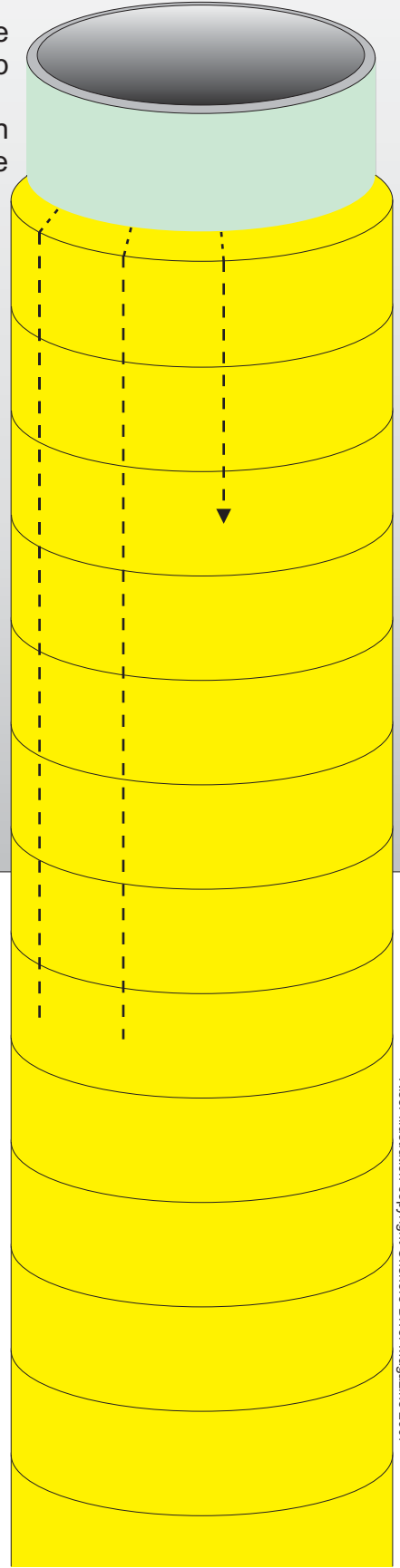
Pull and slice...

You can see where this is going.

"Just like skinning a fish," says Moore.

You should end up with a strip of Splashtron about two inches wide and however long as the area you have to clean. Continue all the way around. You will probably need a grinder and a barnacle buster or a zeke when you're done pulling strips because there will almost certainly be quite a few little fragments still adhering to the pipe and they ain't gonna just jump off.

Many company reps are a little edgy about using a barnacle buster to prep pipe for an end connector because of the tiny dimples it leaves, and if you toe in a zeke pad too much it will very quickly cut deep enough to spoil the sealing surface, so you are on your own there. Putting a cup brush on that grinder is an effective way to get rid of the fragments but does not work as fast as the buster or the zeke.



**MMI** MAGELLAN MARINE  
INTERNATIONAL, LLC.

TECHNICAL PERSONNEL  
DIVING, ROV, FABRICATION, ICP  
A CONSULTING & INSPECTION COMPANY



Office 504/835-3009  
2816 Athania Parkway  
Metairie, LA 70002

Fax 504/835-7040  
mmi-no@magellanmarine.com  
www.magellanmarine.com

**MAYBE...**  
Cavidyne's  
Bubble Blaster  
would work well  
on splashtron.  
Anybody gets a  
chance to try,  
give us a shout.  
Meanwhile, you  
know any other  
good ways to  
remove  
splashtron,  
share 'em out  
and we'll print  
them in the next  
issue.

## Splashtron

If you haven't got a box cutter or something equally sharp, or if you do, but Shell owns the riser, here's a few other ways to get rid of Splashtron, GOM style:

### Hacksaw

Run a grinder gently along both sides of the toothed edge of the blade until it's sharp like a knife but still has teeth. Cut strips of coating off the pipe in such a way that the hacksaw blade is pressed against the steel the whole time. This works pretty good, but you're going to go through a lot of hacksaw blades and you will still need to go over the whole area to remove fragments when you're done hacksawing.

### Paint Scraper

Need a maul, too. About a four pounder. Any heavier and you'll be hating life that much sooner. Make sure the paint scraper is sharp. Use it like a chisel and pound the hell out of it with the maul to take the coating off in chunks. Watch the pipe doesn't get dinged. This takes forever.



Moore with his two longest serving hands. That's Frank on the left; with Mark Tool for 31 years, and Norman on the right; 26 years. If you ever see a joint of pipe coated with Splashtron and at one end it says "Papoo" - it's one of Norman's.



Riser clamps waiting to be lined with Splashtron. Splashtron can also be used for J-tube pulls. It's a mix called Splashtron FM, which stands for Friction Modified. It protects the pipe as usual, but it's a little slicker to ease the pull through the J-tube. A Splashtron centralizer plug around the pipe at the end of the pull centers the riser in the bottom annulus.

### Zeke Pad

Works, but slow. Difficult to tell when you're through the Splashtron and into the steel. Be careful. Almost certainly guaranteed to freak out your company man when he walks into the dive shack and sees steel shavings on the video.

### Barnacle Buster, Cup Brush

Not worth crap until you're almost done by some other method.

### Faith

You could also try wishing it off, but that has never worked yet.



### Mark Tool and Rubber Company, Inc.

PO Box 261  
Franklin, LA 70538

Outside LA: (800) 227-7394

Phone: (337) 828-4479

Fax: (337) 828-4517

[www.marktool.com](http://www.marktool.com)

**ODM would like to thank Moore and his employees for taking the time to talk to some guy that just dropped in one day with a bag full of questions. Real nice people, all.**