

# How to Make Skis Faster

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If you envy all of your friends whizzing past you and wonder why you're always the last one in the pack, there's a reason. It could be your skis. Properly maintaining your skis will not only help you to ski faster with more control, but will also make you a safer skier. There are few things you need to know about making your skis run faster. You can do most of them yourself at home.

Difficulty: Moderate

## Instructions

things you'll need:

- Skis
- Workbench
- Ski scraper
- Steel tuning file
- P-Tex candles
- Scouring pad
- Various ski waxes

## Preparing the Bases

- 1 Scrape any excess base material, burrs and other irregularities by running a metal scraper over the base of the skis. Apply sufficient pressure to remove unwanted material without damaging the bases.
- 2 Run an 8- or 10-inch file over the ski bases, from the tip to the tail. Do not file in both directions. Apply sufficient pressure on both ends of the file to file down the edges so that they are flat with the bases.
- 3 Light the end of a P-Tex candle and melt plastic into any areas of the bases that need repairs. Imperfections in the bases will cause drag, resulting in slower speeds.
- 4 Sharpen the sides of the edges, using a 8-inch file guide. The guide will ensure there is a consistent "bevel" to the edges. Bevel is the degree of slope given to ski edges. Most recreations skiers can use a 1- or 2-degree bevel on both the gliding surface of the skis and the vertical surfaces of the edges.

## Applying Ski Wax

- 1 Choose a good-quality ski wax according to current temperature and snow conditions. Click on the link at the bottom of this article for specifics on how to choose ski wax.
- 2 Melt the wax onto the bottom of the skis using an old electric iron. Choose a low heat setting so that you do not burn the wax.
- 3 Run the iron over the entire surface of the ski to distribute the wax evenly. Let the wax cool for 10 to 15 minutes.

4 Scrape the excess wax off of the bases, using a base scraper.

5 Buff the bases, using a common kitchen scouring pad, until they are smooth.

## Tips & Warnings

- Tune and wax your skis according to how much you use them. Choose the appropriate wax for the appropriate ski conditions.
- Never tune skis if you're not familiar with ski-tuning techniques. Do not use an iron for clothes after using it for waxing.

## Resources

- [Swix Ski Wax Chart](#)