

THE MYSTERY of the WET FLOOR in the GALLEY

Many Hunter 37 Cutter owners have noted water appearing on the galley floor, especially while sailing on port tack. Eventually this leads to lifting varnish on the teak and holly sole and, ultimately, rot. Many of us have tried to find out where it comes from: the ice box drain, the cockpit locker...? One of the last repairs I did on my H37C was to address this water – find its source and fix it. This involved removing the four drawers to starboard of the engine and the plywood piece that has the drawer openings. Once this is done, a large space between the engine compartment and the inner side of the ice box is revealed. The bottom of this space is the same fiberglass pan that is the bottom the starboard cockpit locker. Where the pan meets the icebox, there is a small ‘step’ molded in to the pan at the point it turns down to meet the hull (just before the galley sole or floor starts). This is indicated by the red arrow in the picture. (BTW the large, square hole near the engine was cut by the factory to install wires and hoses)



When the boat heels and pitches underway, water in the cockpit locker (from wet mooring lines and fenders or any deck leaks you have) finds its way to this 'step' and cascades down like a small waterfall onto the galley sole. Because the end grain of the teak and holly plywood is exposed, damage ultimately follows. You can see how the floor pan is designed - the water has nowhere else to go! My solution was to give that water a path to drain to the bilge. In this photo, you can see I have drilled a one inch hole in the molding. Below this hole is the hull and any water will drain to the bilge.



However, there is no guarantee that water will find its way to my drain hole so I went one step further and glassed-in a little dam and made that little 'step' into a sort of drain sump.



This fix worked for my boat. I replaced most of the cabin sole with new teak and holly ply. It was a big job since the plywood is basically just 'glued' to the fiberglass floor pan with silicone – lots of prying, scraping, and cleaning with acetone – but that is well documented elsewhere on this web site.