



"The mountain bike specialists"

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"NO FLATS" FROM JB ULTRASEAL

The FPC/Cyclesport Club is the largest mountain bike club in Africa and our members are avid mountain bike enthusiasts. We are consequently always looking for means and ways to make mountain biking safer and more affordable. We have been afforded the opportunity to test the "No Flats" tyre sealant of JB Ultraseal over a period of 4 months and have found the sealant to be an excellent alternative to other sealants on the market. **The purpose of this dissertation is not to compare the "No Flats" tyre sealant of JB Ultraseal with any other sealant, nor is it a scientific analysis of the sealant. It is merely a summary of our experience of the said sealant.**

The "No Flats" tyre sealant of JB Ultraseal was used in the following two ways:

1. A brand new set of non-tubeless German tyres were fitted with No Flats and used for about 5,000 km during the 4-month period. The type of terrain covered ranged from virgin veld, extreme rock gardens, mountain bike trails and single track to gravel roads. As the wheel-set is used in preparation to participate competitively, the weather conditions covered all types of weather you will find in the country – from wet and cold to dry and hot.
2. An old, different non-tubeless German tyre brand, known for its unsuitable use in tubeless conversions, that was decommissioned due to extensive sidewall damage right on the tyre bead was fitted with No Flats. This tyre was not extensively used for riding after No Flats was fitted but the No Flats completely sealed all holes in the tyre and rendered the tyre usable again.

General findings

Advantages of No Flats

- No Flats is water soluble and washes off easily when spilled.
- No Flats only gets fitted once in the lifecycle of a tyre – after the 5,000 km test period the tyres were opened and the amount of sealant inside the tyres was still sufficient, there was no need to top-up.
- No Flats does not adhere to metal at all and therefore never blocks your valve! Even when your tyre gets punctured and some of the No Flats squirts onto your frame it washes off easily.
- No Flats seems to have a "capillary ability" that causes the sealant to creep up against the side of the tyre wall. It consistently covers all areas inside the tyre and does not accumulate at the bottom of the tyre when you stop.
- No Flats cures sidewall cuts better than any other sealant due to its "capillary ability" to cling to the sidewalls.

- Holes caused by thorns are very quickly cured by No Flats – even if you pull an object from the tyre and the hole is on the top *it cures without having to spin the wheel.*

Issues of concern:

- *The amount of No Flats fitted to a tyre must be carefully verified – the prescribed amount of one bottle for two 26x2.1 tyres is barely enough, but for wider tyres it seems as if it is only just not enough. It covers the whole of the inside of the tyre but there is no residual sealant for “back-up”. Less No Flats implies that it takes longer for the hole to seal, hence more loss of air. Considering that many mountain bikers in SA tend to ride with wider tyres than riders in other countries, and also very often at lower tyre pressure as to reduce rolling resistance, not having enough sealant in a tyre could result in loss of too much air before the hole is sealed during a puncture.*
- *The amount of No Flats to be fitted to a tyre doesn't compare favourably to some other popular sealants as No Flats requires more sealant to be fitted to the tyre, which equates to a heavier wheel – and 100gm per wheel can be a substantial issue to some “weight wheenies”. However, considering that one only fits No Flats once in a tyre's life and never have to top-up again, this weight is a constant. Some other sealants, suspended in ammonia, must be topped-up regularly and the crystals forming sediment inside the tyre, very soon add to the weight of the tyre. This is especially the case in warm wether when it must be topped-up more regularly.*

FPC/Cyclesport Club also features a highly competitive development mountain bike racing team. All the riders in our racing team feature among the top-10 best riders on the national XCM log and top-5 in their respective age categories. We have enough confidence in No Flats of JB Ultraseal to have our racing team racing with No Flats during the 2010 racing season.



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(Pierre Nel)
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