

Personal Protection

Five commercially available products were independently tested to determine if they deter sharks

Chillax Wax

Wax applied to the top of surfboard

Reduced White Shark interactions by 14%

Rpela

Electrode and electronics built-in on bottom of surfboard (electrical)

Reduced White Shark interactions by 12%

SharkBanz bracelet

Worn on ankle or wrist (magnetic)

Reduced White Shark interactions by 6%

Ocean Guardian Freedom+ Surf

Electrode stickers placed on bottom of surfboard, electronics incorporated within tail kick of back grip (electrical)

Best performing of tested products

Reduced White Shark interactions by 56%

SharkBanz surf leash

Incorporated within surfboard leash (magnetic)

Reduced White Shark interactions by 10%



**IT IS IMPORTANT TO RECOGNISE THAT
NO DEVICE IS 100% EFFECTIVE**

BENEFITS

- Aims to reduce the chance of a shark interaction to an individual (especially surfers)
- Accessible to individuals surfing/swimming in remote locations or want extra protection
- Don't harm sharks or other marine life
- Environmentally safe
- Convenient/easy/wearable

CONSIDERATIONS

- Invest in a device independently tested and verified, with publicly available results
- Cost to individual beach goers
- Already used by some tourism operators for their business
- Multiple devices required if a surfer has more than one board



Personal shark deterrents can be worn by an individual or attached to surfboards.

There are different types of devices including electric, magnetic, chemical and visual deterrents designed to disrupt sharks' sensors to deter them from approaching.

TESTING AND RESULTS

Flinders University tested the effectiveness of five commercially available devices (shown on the first page) developed for surfers in reducing the likelihood of an interaction with White sharks.

One device reduced the likelihood of an interaction with White sharks by more than 50%, the Ocean Guardian Freedom+ Surf.

Despite being most effective, the Freedom+ Surf device failed to stop sharks in 40% of the trials.

Thus, none of the devices tested provided guaranteed protection from White sharks and further research is required.



WHAT THE COMMUNITY THINKS

- Some feel a government rebate for a scientifically-proven device would help enable people to take personal responsibility for their safety
- Preferred by those that believe safety is one's own responsibility
- Can provide some peace of mind for those that are more concerned about shark interactions

