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Used Equipment Buyers Guide For Kirby Morgan Products

This guide aims to inform buyers about the facts involved in purchasing used Kirby Morgan equipment. It is important to understand the potential for significant issues related to buying used equipment.

Buying used equipment “sight unseen” always carries significant risk unless it is acquired from an authorized Kirby Morgan dealer or has been refurbished by an authorized Kirby Morgan dealer in the past year.

⚠ NOTICE

What you see is NOT always what you get.

New owners of used equipment are surprised by the **damage caused by over 20 years of use and neglect**. Many expect a simple overhaul, only to discover that the **shell and other parts are unserviceable** and require **replacement**, bringing the **cost** close to that of a new or “like new” unit helmet.

A 25-year-old shell or frame can still be used if it is in **good condition** and **certified** by an **authorized Kirby Morgan dealer**. However, the threshold for major **fiberglass repairs** will be limited. **Some entities and companies** do not allow the use of **25-year-old equipment**, and employers may require an **annual fiberglass structural evaluation**.

The key factors in this determination are the **frequency of use, maintenance**, and the **type of diving environment**. ([See Bulletin 5 of 2014](#) and [Bulletin 9 of 2016](#))

Gel coat refinishing is **not** performed on models that are **25 years old or older**. A **20-year-old shell** may only undergo **spot repairs**, with limitations for repairs on **20+ year-old SL 17B shells**, particularly concerning **base damage, O-ring grooves**, and **insert corrosion**. The **neck clamp assembly** is also a **point of concern**.

Follow these four guidelines to be an informed buyer:

1. Request a close-up picture of the serial number number
2. Check the [list of stolen equipment](#) on the Kirby Morgan website.
3. Avoid purchasing equipment without service records from an authorized Kirby Morgan dealer within the past year. Equipment maintained by the owner should be treated as lacking service records
4. [Contact](#) Kirby Morgan to verify the age and original color. If there's any doubt about the factory gel coat, send Dive Lab a picture of the serial number. Never buy equipment with resurfaced or altered serial numbers, as these are unserviceable and will be condemned.

⚠ NOTICE

Beware of Chinese Counterfeiters ([see Bulletin 5 of 2018](#)).