



March 29, 2018

Thank you for participating in our Member Tested and Recommended Program. The **Apex Boots** has been tested and recommended by the members of the National Tactical Officers Association. Your overall score was a **4.23**.

Attached with this letter is a copy of the complete review that your company can use as well. Press releases written regarding this product review must be emailed to the NTOA for review before release to assure the wording is correct.

This product and its review are now listed on the NTOA's Member Tested and Recommended online database. The review may also be published in *The Tactical Edge* journal, as time allows. We do not have an image for your product in our database; please email a hi-res graphic to [mtrprogram@ntoa.org](mailto:mtrprogram@ntoa.org) as soon as possible.

Please contact Corey Luby at [ntoaadvertising@ntoa.org](mailto:ntoaadvertising@ntoa.org) if you would like to advertise in *The Tactical Edge* journal. Once again, thank you for participating in the Member Tested and Recommended Program©.

Member Tested and Recommended Program  
800-279-9127 x3

## 5.11 Tactical Series

Apex Boots

Overall Score: 4.23

[www.511Tactical.com](http://www.511Tactical.com)

Tester 1 of 3

Tested by a police officer from Virginia

Design 4

Performance 4

Ease of Use 4

Size 4

Quality 3

Durability 4

Storage 3

Versatility 3

Convenience 3

Application 3

Comfort 3

Accuracy 3

Cleaning & Maintenance 3

Individual Score 3.31

Overall the Apex 8 inch waterproof boots by 5.11 have a lot going in their favor, but there is still room for improvement. The boot itself comes in either dark coyote or black. It is mostly full grain leather with a nice Vibram sole which is designed to be replaceable. The interior is lined with a padded material that says it is waterproof, but still seems to let some air move around. The manufacturer states the leather can be polished and I think the black model can be, but not the dark coyote which I tested. These are not steel toed boots. The weight is a little below what I am used to in a tactical boot, but not enough that I would call them especially light weight. The manufacturer also states that the waterproof layer inside the boot is supposed to protect you from blood borne pathogens, but at the same time I don't feel that really makes the boot waterproof. If you step in a puddle deeper than 6 or so inches, the boots will flood around the tongue. One of the things that most impressed me with these boots was how comfortable they were to walk and stand in. 5.11 really nailed this one. However, they were very uncomfortable to run in. The quality for the most part was pretty good with only one lace fraying mysteriously and an issue with the foot beds. Other than that they showed very little signs of wear after the month long testing period. Just be aware that this same toughness makes them slower than normal to break in. One bit of engineering I really liked was an abrasion resistant Kevlar cap around the back of the heel. With most of my boots I just get them well broken in when the heel starts to soften up too causing some stability loss, but I think this will prevent that. They also did a great job of keeping my feet warm, but not too warm, during this last winter. Aside from the aforementioned running comfort and long break in period, the only other issue I had was that the foot beds were put together differently in each boot. At MFRP of around \$250 and only a month to test them I

am not sure I could recommend these over other boots at a similar price point with proven track records. However, they are certainly good enough to bear watching to see how they hold up and are received over a longer period.

Tester 2 of 3

Tested by a member from Illinois

Design 4.9

Performance 4.9

Ease of Use 4.9

Size 5

Quality 4.9

Durability 4.9

Storage 4.9

Versatility 4.9

Convenience 4.9

Application 4.9

Comfort 5.0

Accuracy 4.9

Cleaning & Maintenance 4.9

Individual Score 4.92

I received the 511 Apex Boots on Feb 16th giving me approximately 4 weeks to test them. Size: I wear a 10.5 in all previously owned boots and running shoes. I have a slightly wide foot but do not require a W when purchasing boots and shoes. I have an average or medium arched foot. The 10.5 Apex fit my foot perfectly. Comfort: I noticed the boot comes up high on your ankle. The high ankle support was extremely supportive and flexible directly out of the box. I have worn boots in the past that needed to be broke in. That was not the case for the Apex. I wore the boots for several hours at a time, standing, kneeling, walking, running, playing with the kids, and cutting down trees. My foot never became sore or fatigued. I tested the Apex outside at temperatures between 20-30 degrees wearing normal cotton socks for extended periods of time. My feet were never cold, nor did my feet sweat. I wore the Apex in water and raining conditions. I never felt my feet or socks get wet. I really like the lacing hooks on the ankle. The hooks make it easy to loosen and tighten the laces without the laces falling out. I have owned Bates, Magnum, Propper, and Timberland brand boots. The Apex is probably the most comfortable boot I have ever owned. I would like to see the Apex in the color black so that it could be worn with most city/municipal police agencies uniforms. At this point I would be willing to pay \$150.00 for the Apex boots. Depending on how long they last (durability), I may be willing to pay more.

Tester 3 of 3

Tested by a member from

Design 4

Performance 4

Ease of Use 4

Size 4

Quality 5  
Durability 5  
Storage 4  
Versatility 5  
Convenience 5  
Application 4  
Comfort 5  
Accuracy 4  
Cleaning & Maintenance 4  
Individual Score 4.46

I tested the 5.11 Apex boot (coyote color) in the late winter of the Pacific Northwest, in terrain ranging from urban industrial settings to high alpine backcountry, via the coastal intertidal, in snow storms and heavy rains. I was pleasantly surprised by this boot. The initial stiffness right out of the box loosened up within a couple of hours of first wear, but didn't become loose or flaccid with more extensive wear- the leather uppers molded to my feet and provided ample support without being too snug. The cuff around the top of the boot was comfortable and could be made more or less snug by manipulating the laces through the eyelets at the top of the tongue and the rear of the cuff. The factory insole molded to my feet rapidly and provided comfort, support and cushioning like I have not ever experienced outside of custom insoles. The outer soles and mid soles were extremely durable and despite being worn up and down shale rock slides and other similar terrain, did not degrade; in addition, even on black ice, wet or powder snow, rain soaked cement or asphalt, and wet tile and wood flooring, they did not ever slip and seemed very stable. And yet, despite being a very stable platform, they do not feel heavy. I even ran on the beach in the Apex boots and delivered some kicks to the heavy bag and it truly felt more like I was wearing trainers. The uppers were also completely water resistant; despite being immersed and exposed to Pac Northwest wet weather of all types for many hours on end, my feet were dry at all times. It did help to tighten the cuff up, to prevent water from getting in the top of your boots. I really liked the hidden pockets, located on the outside of each boot; I was able to carry a knife in one and a multitool in the other, without really feeling they were present, until I overtightened the laces through the top eyelets- just needed readjustment. Finally, I love the look of these- they are a great duty boot, but they also wear well with jeans or chinos in plainclothes order, or even off duty. There were only three disadvantages to the boot I tested; one, tightening up the cuff using the lace eyelets, could cause the contents of the hidden boot pocket to press uncomfortably against your ankles; two, the coyote color was prone to staining by blood, oil, ash, tar, paint, etc; and three, some agencies require a safety standards authority stamp on the boot and a steel shank and toe cap to meet that standard; these boots would not meet that standard, which is something 5.11 could work on I think.