

First and foremost, we are boaters! As a result we have seen most of the problems that boat owners deal with. Proper care of your boat can prolong the life of the upholstery and enhance your satisfaction with your interior. There are some common problems that all boat owners may develop. Most of these are avoidable with care and attention.

AVOID AGING

To avoid premature aging use only approved cleaners or a cleaner that is water based. ALWAYS RINSE ANY CLEANING AGENT OFF COMPLETELY AFTER USE. Most stains can be removed if caught early, and cleaned with a soft bristle brush and a cleaner like Dawn dish soap. Create lather and lightly scrub with the brush.

Cover your boat when not in use. Shore stations allow for air flow and protection against the sun and rain and are a very good method for long term storage. Allow adequate venting when using a cover, to avoid trapping moisture and reduce the effect of UV, which can damage the surfaces of the boat (carpet, upholstery, Gelcoat) over time. Refrain from stowing wet towels, all weather gear, swimsuits, etc. inside the boat. Cabinets and lockers should be opened, if possible, to aid in air circulation. Moisture absorbing desiccants may aid in controlling interior moisture.

AVOID "PINK STAIN" - BEWARE OF THE MICROORGANISMS

The two principal causes of offensive odors and unsightly stains and growths are bacteria and fungi, commonly called microorganisms. Bacteria are simple, single-celled organisms. Fungi, referred to as mold and mildew, are significantly more complex. A subset of fungal organisms is a type that produces colored by-products as part of its digestive process. These by-products are recognized as stains and are typically pink, yellow, purple or black.

BREAK THE CHAIN

To have a mildew problem you need four elements, which are referred to as the Mildew Square. In order for mildew to proliferate, spores, food, warmth, and moisture are necessary. Elimination of one of these elements would break the square, and the mildew problem would be eliminated. The most likely element to control is moisture. Keep the surface dry and the ambient air dry and you can break the link in the Mildew Square. In actuality, this is very difficult. Marine upholstery may be dry when one sits on it, but it is constantly exposed to rain, splashes and wet bathing suits.

Additional Pink Stain/ Mildew information can be found in the Resource Library.

TO DECREASE RISK OF PINK STAIN

- Keep your boat free of dirt and debris, and upholstery as dry as possible.
- Clean frequently with mild soap and water, paying special attention to crevices.
- Always allow upholstery to dry completely!
- Cover the boat when not in use, allowing for adequate venting.

Always remove stains immediately. Upholstery must be kept **CLEAN!**

The information published in this care guide was developed from the Chemical Fabrics & Film Association, Inc.

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Find more vinyl cleaning & care information at: www.spradlingvinyl.com/sim or call the cleaning hotline at 1-800-247-9901

MILDEW SQUARE

