

**P**ERIODIC CLEANING IS THE BEST WAY TO KEEP YOUR BOAT looking like new. Regular washing and waxing keep dirt and build-up from deteriorating the finish. Keeping your boat in a showroom-new condition results in personal satisfaction and higher resale value.

The boat is made of fiberglass-reinforced plastic resin material that is easy to clean and care for. Several layers of resin material are chemically bonded together to form the hull. The smooth outside surface of the hull is a layer of gel coat resin. While the gel coat is solid color, the thickness of the layer is only a few millimeters thick—like paint on a car but much tougher, and chemically bonded.

Beneath the gel coat surface is a series of layers of chemical resin, fiberglass mat and woven roving. It is these layers that give the boat its strength and maintain



washing to prevent mildew accumulations when the boat is covered. Spray the cushions with a mildew repellent and prop them up in the boat when it is covered to take advantage of air circulation.

MasterCraft vinyls are made to withstand the effects of sun, heat, acid rain and soiling, under normal conditions, but this does not preclude the cleaning requirements. Please consult the following cleaning recommendations before cleaning your upholstery.

Certain household cleaners, powdered abrasives, steel wool, and industrial cleaners may cause damage and discoloration, and are not recommended for use. Dry cleaning fluids and lacquer solvents should not be used as they will remove the printed pattern and gloss. Waxes are not recommended, as many contain dyes and solvents that can permanently damage the vinyl's protective coating.

In some instances, consumers have reported the appearance of a pink stain on vinyl that is resistant to various cleaning methods. Although there can be other causes for pink staining in vinyls, most pink stains are caused by dyes produced by micro-organisms. These dyes are metabolic products of the micro-organisms, otherwise known as a form of fungi.

It is virtually impossible for consumers to avoid these micro-organisms as they exist in the atmosphere, which are more prevalent in high-humidity areas. Rain cleanses the air, with the result being that the micro-organisms are deposited on items such as marine vinyl.

While the vinyl is treated to resist the growth of micro-organisms (meaning the vinyl is not a food source), the

## CLEANING THE BOAT

the hull shape. The boat bottom also uses special core-mat material for its strength-to-weight and superior marine performance.

### Hull

When washing the boat, be sure to use a mild detergent, such as Dawn or Ivory dish soap, or similar commercially-produced detergent, and warm water solution. **DO NOT** use abrasive cleaners, solvents, ammonia or chlorine, as these will damage the gel coat surface. Under extreme conditions, special cleaners may be used to remove marine growth from the hull. (See an authorized MasterCraft service department for further instructions.)

### Upholstery

While the vinyl is made to withstand the elements, it is important to care for vinyl by keeping it clean at all times. Many substances may stain the vinyl if left untreated over a period of time. Remember to remove any contaminant and clean vinyl immediately.

Regular washing with mild detergent (see attached information) and warm water or vinyl cleaners is sufficient to keep the cushion and vinyl coverings in good condition. Do not soak the cushion, and dry thoroughly after

stain results from failure to properly clean and maintain the vinyl. This means that after use, the upholstery must be cleaned with a soft brush and warm soapy water, followed by a thorough rinse with clean water.

This situation is worsened if the boat is stored without proper ventilation or if the boat cover is put on while the vinyl is still wet, creating a situation in which all forms of fungi (mold and mildew) thrive.

**Failure to follow these instructions in the proper care of upholstery may cause your warranty to be voided!**

The cleaning table presented in this section is offered only as a suggestion and as an aid in attempting to deal with stains. We do not guarantee that the cleaning methods will work. **Stains from any external source are unlikely to be covered by warranty.**



### **Carpet**

Occasionally washing with mild detergent and warm water or household carpet cleaners will help keep the carpet clean. Thoroughly hose the detergent out of the carpet and into the bilge. (This is a good time to clean the bilge also.) Allow the boat to remain uncovered to air dry for several days to prevent any mildew or odor caused by moisture.

### **Teak Wood**

Regular cleaning and oiling of teak wood will maintain its original appearance. Use a teak cleaner that can penetrate the pores of the wood and cleanse them of dirt and stains. Avoid caustic teak cleaners since they can damage the wood. Immediately after cleaning, an oil sealer should be applied with a soft cloth. (Follow the

directions for application and maintenance that appear on the cleaner and sealer can or bottle.)

### **Windshield**

In cleaning tempered glass windshields, the normal glass cleaners (from spray bottles or aerosol cans) work best. While the glass is very strong, it can be scratched if anything abrasive is used. Harsh chemicals or solvents should be avoided because they may affect the vinyl gaskets or powder-coated finish on the extrusions.

More care should be taken when cleaning the clear Eisenglass curtains, which are an option on some boat models. Eisenglass curtains are usually made with clear vinyl sheeting, which is much softer and more prone to scratching and hazing than the windshield glass is, only soft cloths and mild detergents should be used.

### **Canvas Covers**

The material used in constructing Bimini tops and boat covers is made from 100 percent solution-dyed polyester fiber with a urethane coating to provide excellent water repellency and mildew resistance. This design allows the material to be easily maintained. By following a few simple care and cleaning steps, the fabric will continue to look good and maintain its fine qualities for seasons to come.

#### ***Important Background Information***

Because the fabrics are woven, they are breathable. It's also important to know that these fabrics are treated with a fluorocarbon finish, which enhances water repellency. This finish requires replenishment after vigorous cleaning.

Polyester fabric will not support the growth of mildew. Mold and mildew need something on which to grow and polyester fabric is not a desirable substance for such growth. Dirt or dust on the fabric, however, is a perfect source for mildew growth, which makes regular cleaning of the fabric important.

There is no set time for when the fabric should be cleaned, and the local environment has a great deal to do with determining cleaning frequency. Cleaning is required less frequently in a dry environment than in a humid one where heavy foliage exists.

**The material has an applied finish that deters mold and mildew growth, but it does not make it mold-proof. Keeping the fabric free of dirt and foreign substances is important in deterring mold growth.**

### **Cleaning**

One of the best ways to keep the material looking fresh and new, and to delay the need for deep or vigorous cleaning, is to hose off fabrics with clear water on at least a monthly basis with clean water. This practice will help prevent dirt from becoming deeply imbedded in the fabric, and it will eliminate the need for more frequent and more vigorous cleanings.

In most environments, a thorough cleaning will be needed approximately every two (2) years.

The fabric can be cleaned while still in the boat. When cleaning, it is important to observe the following:

- Always use a natural soap—never detergent.
- Water should be cold to lukewarm, but never more than 100 degrees.
- Air dry only. Never apply heat to the fabric.

Begin by brushing off loose dirt, and then hose down the material. Prepare a cleaning mixture of water and a mild, natural soap that is free of detergents. Use a soft-bristle brush to clean, allowing the soap to soak in. Rinse thoroughly and allow the fabric to thoroughly air dry.

If stubborn stains persist, you can use a diluted chlorine bleach/soap mixture for spot cleaning of mildew, roof run-off and other similar stains. Please keep in mind that chlorine bleach will not change the color of the fabric, but chlorine bleach will eventually break down the fiber of any fabric. Therefore, this cleaning method should be used as infrequently as possible.

The cleaning mixture should be mixed as follows:

- Four ounces (one-half cup) of chlorine bleach.
- Two ounces (one-fourth cup) of natural soap.
- One gallon of water.

Clean with a soft-bristle brush and allow the mixture to soak no longer than twenty (20) minutes. Rinse thoroughly and allow to completely air dry. Repeat if necessary.

If the top or boat cover is suitable in size for a washing machine, these steps should be followed:

Use only natural soaps—no detergent.

Wash and rinse in cold water.

Air dry. (Never put the fabric in a dryer.)

As part of the finishing process, the material has been treated with a fluorocarbon finish, which enhances water repellency. This finish is designed to last for several

years, but it must be replenished after a thorough cleaning. Based on test results, the manufacturer recommends 303 High Tech Fabric Guard™ as the preferred re-treatment product.

After cleaning and air drying, apply 303 in a thin, even coat. When it has dried, apply a second thin, even coat. These two (2) light coatings are more effective in restoring fabric water resistance than a single heavy coating. Keep in mind that 303 High Tech Fabric Guard™ will work only as well as it is applied. This means that the fabric must be free of dirt and detergents or the Fabric Guard will wash away with the dirt particles.

Fabrics should be retreated after thorough cleaning or after five (5) years of use.

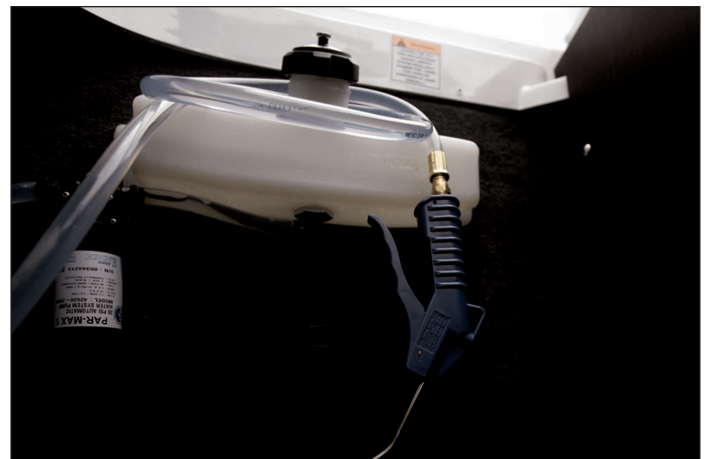
### **Enclosed Head**

An option on some models is the enclosed, portable head. This convenience should be emptied on-shore within an acceptable holding tank, septic system or sewer. It should never be emptied within the boating body of water or on-shore, except in an approved receptacle!

After thoroughly cleaning with a mild detergent, add a neutralizing chemical made especially for portable heads, such as that found in RV centers. The chemical will help deal with potential odors that might otherwise be foul. Even with the use of this neutralizing chemical, the head should be cleaned after each outing.

### **Slick Boot**

The optional Slick Boot should periodically be dismantled, cleaned and the wand thoroughly rinsed. The Slick Boot material can sometimes become gelled, particularly in colder weather.







### Acceptable Upholstery Cleaners

MasterCraft Vinyl Dressing  
Vinyl Finish Vinyl Cleaner  
Dish Soap (such as Dawn or Ivory)  
303 High Tech Fabric Guard™

### Unacceptable Upholstery Cleaners

409 (it states not for use on vinyl!)  
Fantastik  
Murphy's Soap  
Simple Green  
DC Plus  
Armorall  
Top Kote Sealant  
Son of a Gun  
Orange 88 Degreaser  
Roll Off  
Bleach/Baking Soda  
Turtle Wax/Tar Remover  
APCO  
Tannery  
Harbor Master  
*Any product not listed above in the list of Acceptable Upholstery Cleaners!*

Do not use any silicone-based protectants because they will extract the plasticizers, leaving the vinyl hard and brittle. (Eventually cracking will occur.)

Certain household cleaners, powdered abrasives, steel wool, and solvent cleaners can cause damage and discoloration and are not recommended. Dry cleaning fluids and lacquer solvents should not be used as they will remove printed pattern and gloss. Bleach will deteriorate the thread.

Common Stains	Steps	1	2	3
Chewing Gum		D	A	
Motor Oil		B		
Spray Paint		B		
Mildew or Wet Leaves*		C	B	A
Yellow Mustard		A	B	C
Oil-Base Paint		D	B	
Suntan Lotion*		A	B	
Tar/Asphalt		D	B	
Lipstick		A	B	
Latex Paint		A	B	
Crayon		D	B	
Ketchup		A	B	
Grease		D	B	
Ballpoint Ink*		E	B	A
Household Soil		A	B	
Permanent Marker*		E	B	C
Coffee, Tea, Chocolate		B		

### DO NOT USE 409 CLEANER OR SILICONE-BASED PRODUCTS!!!

A = Medium-soft brush; warm soapy water/rinse/dry.

B = Vinyl finish cleaner.

C = One (1) tablespoon ammonia, one-fourth (1/4) cup of hydrogen peroxide, three-fourths (3/4) cup of water/rinse/dry.

D = Wipe or scrape off excess (chill gum with ice).

E = Denatured alcohol/rinse/dry.

\*Sun tan lotion, shoe polish, wet leaves and some other products contain dyes that stain permanently.

Vinyl upholstery should be covered when not in use, to protect from further sun exposure or natural acts of tree debris, air pollutants and acid rain.

For storage, vinyl should be cleaned, protected, covered and stored in a dry, well-ventilated area.

