

TOP GUN

Care and cleaning

One of the best ways to keep Top Gun fabrics looking good and to delay the need for deep or vigorous cleaning is to hose fabrics off on a monthly basis with clear water.

This practice will help prevent dirt from becoming deeply embedded in the fabric and eliminate the need for more frequent vigorous cleaning. In most environments, a thorough cleaning will be needed every two to three years.

When it's time for a thorough cleaning, Top Gun fabrics can be cleaned while still on a boat or, size permitting, they can be removed for cleaning dock side.

When cleaning Top Gun fabrics, it is important to observe the following:

- Always use a mild soap such as Ivory Snow, Dreft or Woolite.
- Water should be cold to lukewarm (Never more than 100°F/38°C.)
- Rinse thoroughly to remove all soap residues.
- Air dry only.
- Never apply heat to Top Gun fabrics.

General or light cleaning

To clean Top Gun while still on a boat, follow these simple steps:

- Brush off loose dirt.
- Hose down.
- Prepare a cleaning solution of water and mild soap such as Ivory Snow, Dreft or Woolite (no detergents).
- Use a soft bristle brush to clean.
- Allow cleaning solution to soak into the fabric.
- Rinse thoroughly until all soap residue is removed.
- Air dry.
- May not require re-treatment depending on the age of the fabric.

If stubborn stains persist, you can use a diluted chlorine bleach/soap mixture for spot cleaning of mildew, roof run-off or other similar stains.

Heavy cleaning for stubborn stains and mildew

Top Gun fabric does not promote mildew growth, however, mildew may grow on dirt and other foreign substances that are not removed from the fabric.

To clean mildew, or other stubborn stains:

- Four ounces (1/2 cup) of chlorine bleach.
- Two ounces (1/4 cup) of mild soap and/or detergent.
- One gallon of lukewarm water (never more than 100°F/38°C.)
- Clean with soft bristle brush.
- Allow mixture to soak into the fabric for up to 15 minutes.
- Rinse thoroughly until all soap residue is removed.
- Air dry.
- Repeat if necessary.
- Re-treatment of fabric for water and stain resistance will be necessary.

Remember to protect the area around your Top Gun fabric if using a bleach solution. Carpet or other fabrics that are not Top Gun may have an adverse reaction to the bleach.

Re-treating the fabric

As part of the finishing process, Top Gun fabrics are treated with a fluorocarbon finish, which enhances water repellency. This finish is designed to last for several years, but must be replenished after a thorough cleaning.

Based on test results, Marchem CFI recommends Aqua-Tite Green ® as the preferred re-treatment product for Top Gun fabrics.

Fabrics should be re-treated after thorough cleaning or after five years of use. Please follow manufacturer instructions for re-treatment applications.

Aqua-Tite Green ® is available through ANP Inc.

For more information please visit our website: www.anp.ca or contact us at (819) 364-3642

Professional cleaners

You may have access to professional cleaning firms.

In evaluating the services of a professional firm, you should inquire about a firm's experience in working with Top Gun fabrics and knowledge of cleaning and re-treatment requirements.

DO NOT dry clean Top Gun fabrics.

Helpful hints

Protect the area around the Top Gun fabric when using a bleach solution – bleach may discolor non- Top Gun fabrics.

Always rinse Top Gun thoroughly to completely remove bleach. Top Gun air dries very quickly. Machine drying is not recommended.

DO NOT use a steamer or iron set on Top Gun fabrics.

IMPORTANT: Use of bleach and/or advanced age of the fabric application may impact the deterioration of the sewing thread and other non-Top Gun components.