

## MOLD AND MILDEW - CARE AND MAINTENANCE

Boats are naturally exposed to damp conditions. Therefore, it is not unusual for mold and mildew to accumulate on the boat canvas or furniture, especially in warm climates.

Mold is mildew is not only unsightly, it can present health hazards to those who are sensitive to it, in particular respiratory distress. DON'T LET IT START

Here is some information and tips on how to protect your investment from the damaging effects of mold and mildew.

### What is mold & mildew?

Mold and Mildew are common terms used to identify a wide range of micro-organisms that survive on organic materials and can cause damage.

Associated with these organisms are a musty odour and their growth can appear as an **irregular stain which can range from gray, to black, to red or oranges.** These stains can result in permanent discoloration of the fabric.

Fungal spores are virtually everywhere in the air and soil. Fungal spores enjoy relative humidity upwards of 65% along with warmer temperatures.

When observed under microscope a germinated spore looks like a tiny plant with roots, stems and flowers.

### Fabric conditions influencing growth

<b>Fiber content</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• All fibers support growth.</li><li>• Natural fibers (I.E. cotton) are more susceptible</li></ul>
<b>Environmental conditions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Damp, warm environments foster growth</li><li>• Poor air circulation exacerbates the problem.</li></ul>
<b>Cleanliness of surface</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Textiles kept free of dust and food are less susceptible to growth</li></ul>
<b>Treatments</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• ANP exclusively uses fabrics where mildew inhibitors are added during the manufacturing process.</li><li>• Although this feature aids in resistance in marine environments, it will not prevent growth.</li></ul>
<b>Detection</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• One of the initial indication of a microorganism problem is a musty odor.</li></ul>
<b>Damage</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Growth can permanently stain a fabric.</li><li>• A darkened area is most likely not repairable without radical treatments inappropriate for fabric.</li><li>• There is a chance the stain can be lightened</li><li>• Appropriate health risk consideration must be considered when a infestation occurs and with any cleaning attempts.</li></ul>

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### Controlling outbreak

The most effective way to control bio-deterioration of the fabric is to prevent the growth of the spores by:

1. Keeping canvas in cool, dry conditions
2. Temperature < 68° F /
3. Humidity <65%
4. Adequate ventilation
5. Good housekeeping practices
6. Gentle vacuuming
7. Clean routinely per material manufacturers recommendations  
(*see our care and cleaning section*)
8. Marine industry approved biocide spray



**Never store your marine canvas when it's wet or you risk damaging it.**

This includes folding or boxing it up or keeping it in an unventilated, moist area. Make sure it is completely dry before working with it.

Marine canvas should be cleaned and dried before applying manufacturer's recommended protective spray. This will help with any mildew problems you might have. It's, however not a cure.