



# FLOATING LUXURIES®

## MARINE TOPS AND COVERS

### Care and cleaning

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One of the best ways to keep marine-grade 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, marine-grade fabrics can be cleaned while still on a boat or, size permitting, they can be removed for cleaning in a washing machine or dock side. When cleaning marine-grade 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 residue.
- Air dry only. Never apply heat to marine-grade fabric.

### General or light cleaning

To clean marine-grade fabrics 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 (see our Stain Chart for specific recommendations).

### Heavy cleaning for stubborn stains and mildew

Marine-grade 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:

- Eight ounces (one cup) of chlorine bleach.
- Two ounces (1/4 cup) of mild soap and/or detergent.
- One gallon of water.
- 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 marine-grade fabric if using a bleach solution. Carpet or other fabrics that are not marine-grade may have an adverse reaction to the bleach. If a boat cover is suitable in size for a washing machine, these steps should be followed:

- Use mild soap and/or detergent.
- For heavier stains add 1 cup of bleach to wash.
- Wash and rinse in cold water.
- Air dry. Never apply heat to marine-grade fabric.
- Re-treatment for water and stain resistance will be necessary after machine washing.

### Re-treating the fabric

As part of the finishing process, marine-grade 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, Floating Luxuries® recommends 303 High Tech Fabric Guard™ as the preferred re-treatment product for marine-grade fabrics. Fabrics should be re-treated after thorough cleaning or after five years of use.

For more information on re-treatment products, please visit [www.303products.com](http://www.303products.com).

\* Synthetic fabric heat settings normally do not exceed 150°F/66°C.

### Applying 303 High Tech Fabric Guard

303 should be applied to marine-grade fabrics after each thorough cleaning, which typically removes the original finish and reduces the fabric's water repellency.

- Clean marine-grade fabric, using one of the cleaning methods.
- Allow fabric to completely air dry.
- Apply 303 Fabric Guard in a well ventilated area following instructions on the container.
- Apply 303 in a thin, even coat and allow fabric to dry completely.
- Apply a second thin, even coating of 303. (Two light coatings are more effective in restoring fabric water resistance than a single heavy coating. A 15-ounce bottle provides coverage of up to 50 square feet of fabric.)

For more information, please visit [www.303products.com](http://www.303products.com).

### 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 marine-grade fabrics and knowledge of cleaning and re-treatment requirements.

**DO NOT** dry clean marine-grade fabrics.

### Helpful hints

Protect the area around the marine-grade fabric when using a bleach solution – bleach may discolor non-marine-grade fabrics. Always rinse fabric thoroughly to completely remove bleach.

Marine-grade fabric air dries very quickly. Machine drying is not necessary.

If fabric has some wrinkling, use an iron, if necessary, but only on the synthetic\* setting. As some irons exceed the recommended 100°F/38°C temperature on the synthetic setting, test a small inconspicuous area before ironing entire piece.

**DO NOT** use a steamer or iron set to steam setting.

Use of bleach and/or advanced age of the fabric application may impact the deterioration of the sewing thread and other non-marine-grade components.



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## STAIN CHART

This chart contains our recommended cleaning methods of marine-grade fabric for some of the most common and toughest stains. You may also use Carbona Stain Devil cleaning products. Available from national retailers, Carbona provides 9 formulas made to get out different types of stains. Apply the number indicated for your stain.

STAIN	RECOMMENDED CLEANING SOLUTIONS	CARBONA STAIN DEVIL NO.
BEER	Dawn® dishwashing liquid (2 oz.) / 1 gallon water / white vinegar (3 oz.)	8
BERRY	Dawn® dishwashing liquid (2 oz.) / 1 gallon water / ammonia (4-8 oz.)	8
BIRD DROPPINGS	Dawn® dishwashing liquid (2 oz.) / 1 gallon water, or try Goo Gone Grease Cutter (a hand cleaner), Greased Lightning, or Clean Rite Purple Power (available at Wal-Mart, K-Mart, etc.)	
BLOOD (DRIED)	Dawn® dishwashing liquid (2 oz.) / 1 gallon water / ammonia (4-8 oz.)	4
BUTTER	volatile solvent (acetone) 100%	5
CHARCOAL, PENCIL MARKS	vacuum, then Dawn® dishwashing liquid (2 oz.) / 1 gallon water	3
CATSUP OR MUSTARD	Dawn® dishwashing liquid (2 oz.) / 1 gallon water	2
CHEWING GUM	volatile solvent (acetone) 100%	1
CHOCOLATE	Dawn® dishwashing liquid (2 oz.) / 1 gallon water / ammonia (4 oz.)	2
COFFEE	Dawn® dishwashing liquid / water, white vinegar, volatile solvent (acetone)	8
COLA	Dawn® dishwashing liquid (2 oz.) / 1 gallon water	8
CRAYON	paint remover (100%), oil or grease remover (mix as directed)	3
EGG (RAW)	Dawn® dishwashing liquid (2 oz.) / 1 gallon water	4
GRAPE JUICE	Dawn® dishwashing liquid (2 oz.) / 1 gallon water	8
GRAVY	Dawn® dishwashing liquid (2 oz.) / 1 gallon water	2
GREASE (CAR)	volatile solvent (acetone) 100%	5
INK (PERMANENT, INDIA, BALLPOINT)	paint remover (100%), volatile solvent (acetone) 100%, soap and water	3
IRON RUST	Carbona™ Stain Devil #9	9
LIPSTICK	paint remover, oil or grease remover (mix as directed)	6
MASCARA	paint remover (100%), volatile solvent (acetone-100%), Dawn® dishwashing liquid (2 oz.) / 1 gallon water	8
MILDEW	bleach (1 cup) / Dawn® dishwashing liquid (2 oz.) / 1 gallon water	4
MILK	Dawn® dishwashing liquid (2 oz.) / 1 gallon water	8
NAIL POLISH	volatile solvent (acetone) 100%	1
OIL	volatile solvent (acetone) 100%	5
ORANGE DRINK	Dawn® dishwashing liquid (2 oz.) / 1 gallon water	8
PAINT (LATEX) WET	Dawn® dishwashing liquid (2 oz.) / 1 gallon water	1
PAINT (LATEX) DRIED	paint remover (100%), oil or grease remover (mix as directed)	1
PAINT (OIL OR LACQUER)	paint remover (100%), oil or grease remover (mix as directed)	5
SHOE POLISH (LIQUID)	volatile solvent (acetone) 100%	7
SHOE POLISH (WAX)	apply heated iron over towel, volatile solvent (acetone) 100%	1
SUNTAN LOTION	Pine Power® or pine oil detergent / water (mix as directed)	5
TEA	Dawn® dishwashing liquid (2 oz.) / 1 gallon water	8
TOMATO JUICE	Dawn® dishwashing liquid (2 oz.) / 1 gallon water	2
TREE SAP	turpentine (100%), Dawn® dishwashing liquid (2 oz.) / 1 gallon water	7
URINE	Dawn® dishwashing liquid (2 oz.) / 1 gallon water / white vinegar (3 oz.)	8
VOMIT	Dawn® dishwashing liquid (2 oz.) / 1 gallon water / white vinegar (3 oz.)	8
FOOD COLOR	Dawn® dishwashing liquid (2 oz.) / 1 gallon water / white vinegar (3 oz.)	6
WAX (CANDLE)	apply heated iron over towel, volatile solvent (acetone) 100%	1
WINE	Dawn® dishwashing liquid (2 oz.) / 1 gallon water / ammonia (4-8 oz.) / white vinegar (3 oz.)	8