

How To Fight Mold And Mildew

◆ Minimize dampness. Make sure that no area of the bilge can trap water.

◆ Have adequate insulation; outside the tropics, this prevents condensation.

◆ Keep salt water and salt outside the boat and away from cushions, clothes, bedding, and body.

◆ Ventilate. Four-inch cowls feeding into dorade boxes provide effective, long-term ventilation. A 4-inch cowl pushes through almost twice as much air as a 3-inch cowl. All dorade boxes should be sealable from below.

◆ Offshore boats need opening hatches and ports. Locate



Having someone crack the hatches while you're away from your boat helps keep mold and mildew at bay.



A hard scrub will dislodge mildew from crevices and dark corners on deck.

high-quality opening ports throughout the boat, or at the very least in the head and near the galley.

◆ Improve air circulation in lockers by cutting out large areas and installing cane or louvers in doors.

◆ Use solar vents and mushroom vents to keep air moving. Strategically place 12-volt fans to ventilate forgotten corners. Use windscoops to funnel the lightest breeze down

the hatch and into the cabins.

◆ Keep such items as cameras, lenses, and laptop computers in waterproof safety cases or in dry bags with desiccant or silica gel.

◆ Cover copper tubing that passes through clothing lockers with foam-rubber pipe insulation so condensation doesn't drip.

◆ Salt-soaked clothes never seem to dry totally because the salt keeps absorbing humidity. Be sure to rinse salt-saturated garments quickly and dry them thoroughly before stowing.

◆ Air cushions frequently.

◆ Use an absorbent material called Dry Bunk between the cushion and the bunk to minimize condensation.

◆ Kept in lockers near a bunk, mildew crystals capture hull condensation and deposit it into a plastic container; the bunk stays dry as long as you empty the container regularly.

◆ You can use glass cleaners to remove carpet or cushion mildew without leaving any residues.

◆ Non-phosphorous laundry

HANDS-ON SAILOR



Keeping clothes clean and dry will prevent mildew from creeping into your wardrobe at sea. If clothes get wet in salt water, a thorough freshwater rinse is essential.

detergent removes mildew stains from fiberglass. Let it sit for 30 minutes, then rub it off.

- ◆ Use Clorox to clean white surfaces and prevent mildew; a Clorox wipe-down also prevents mold in dorades.

- ◆ Rub diluted vinegar over almost any surface to discourage mold.

- ◆ Snorkeling gear is prone to mold and mildew. With a toothbrush, scrub snorkels and mouthpieces with baking soda before and after use. Occasionally soak the mouthpieces in a mild vinegar solution, then rinse them thoroughly in fresh water.

- ◆ Use baking soda. It cleans most surfaces, is easy on hands, and has a fresh scent.

- ◆ For mildew stains on clothing or other fabric, try applying lemon juice or baking soda in water, followed by a few hours of sunshine.

- ◆ Use enamel with mildew inhibitor, or add your own inhibitor to any oil-, alkyd-, or latex-based paint.

Long-Term Prevention

- ◆ To absorb excess humidity, leave charcoal briquettes or cat litter in foil or plastic containers in lockers, under bunks, and in other spaces. Hang bags of mildew crystals.

- ◆ Leave mildew-deterrent packets of paraformaldehyde in places throughout the boat

to help keep things fresh.

- ◆ Pack clothing and towels in fabric laundry bags or pillowcases. Store books in paper or fabric bags. Put desiccant packets inside clothing and book bags. Buy reusable silica gel in bulk quantity at craft shops to make your own packets. Put a scented dryer sheet or a bar of soap into the bags with clothing, bedding, and towels. Don't pack things in plastic bags for long-term storage because the cycles of condensation and evaporation are as bad as a constant water drip.

- ◆ To absorb odors, put baking soda in the refrigerator; prop open the fridge's lids or doors.

- ◆ Prop seat and bunk cushions on end and keep them away from any leak. Prop open under-seat lockers. ❖

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