



## PRIMER: MOLD & MILDEW ON TEXTILES

The **CAUSE** of mold and mildew growth is when their *spores find a moist, warm and dirty environment*. The latter of these is a food source. Eliminate any one from the environment and mold and mildew cannot grow. The stains on fabric due to mold or mildew can be pink, yellow, purple or black. Mold and mildew type organisms can grow directly on plasticized PVC by using the plasticizer alone as a food source.

To **PREVENT** growth on boat covers or upholstery it is imperative to keep the fabric dry and clean. Covering a moist interior with dirt ingrained in the fabric, whether it is visible or not, will promote mold and mildew. Clean the fabric in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendation, remove wet objects from the interior and dry all wet surfaces. This applies to both the upholstery as well as the boat cover. Trapping moisture within the boat in a warm and humid environment is an invitation for mold and mildew, so make sure the interior is well vented.

To **ELIMINATE** mold and mildew growth, thoroughly clean the surface(s) with soapy water and then lightly scrub with a dilute solution of bleach and water. Next, let the affected surfaces completely dry before re-covering. Finally, follow the prevention practices detailed above to maintain mold- and mildew-free fabrics.

**CAUTION:** ALWAYS FOLLOW THE MANUFACTURER'S SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS ON ALLOWED CLEANING AGENTS AND PRACTICES TO AVOID LOSS OF WARRANTY. THE ABOVE IS PROVIDED AS GENERAL EDUCATION AS TO THE CAUSE, PREVENTION AND ELIMINATION OF NUISANCE MOLD AND MILDEW.