



## swela maritime care tips

The swela maritime biminis, spray hoods and tarpaulins should be cleaned regularly. This should be carried out on an annual basis, depending on the place of use and the environmental conditions (e.g. shorelines with high levels of tree growth and leaf-fall). Regular, quick and less time-consuming maintenance cleaning is best suited for removing lightly embedded dirt and small marks.

We recommend the following steps for maintenance cleaning:

- Remove lightly embedded dirt by carefully brushing off, vacuuming or hosing down with water (e.g. by using a water hose or bucket, do not use a high-pressure hose)
- Residual contamination (dirt on exterior/ grey marks) can be dealt with by using a mild soap solution (e.g. a 5% soap solution). Apply the solution over a large area using a spray bottle, leave for approx. 15-30 minutes, and then use fresh water to rinse. If necessary, repeat the process until the dirt has been completely removed.
- Do not apply pressure or unnecessary force during maintenance cleaning (abrasion).
- Use fresh water to repeatedly rinse the area cleaned to ensure all remnants of the cleaning products used have been removed.
- Towel dry (do not put away whilst wet – **risk of mould**)

There are, in fact, special cleaning products for every type of **dirt mark**, these often contain aggressive solvents which can cause the colour to change. Furthermore, these products can cause an allergic reaction if contact is made with the skin or difficulty breathing. Most marks can be dealt with by using tried-and- tested methods.

We recommend the following procedure for removing marks:

- Do not brush tough or damp stains, as there is a risk of the contaminant being rubbed into the spaces between fibres.
- It is best to tackle stains with a sponge (kitchen sponge or bug sponge usually used for vehicles). Use a mild cleaning solution (e.g. a 5% soap solution) by dipping the sponge in the solution, squeezing and using it to apply solution to the dirty areas / stains, leave for approx. 5-10 minutes, and then use plenty of fresh water to rinse off the soap solution.
- Repeat the process until the dirty area is completely clean, again ensuring that any residual soap solution is completely removed using fresh water.
- Bird droppings, grease stains or oil stains are best removed by using cleaning solvent and dabbing with a clean, dry, absorbent cloth. Avoid rubbing if possible. However, if this is necessary in order to tackle tough stains, then rub using circular motions, always from the inside outwards (avoiding stain edges).
- After cleaning, reimpregnation should be carried out (weather protection).



### Here is some basic information about mould and how to remove it:

Mould growth can be caused by fungal spores, microorganisms or algae. The material itself does not become mouldy, but rather deposits and dirt settle on the surface of the fabric. The most common form is so-called foxing, which leads to grey and black spots appearing. This type of mould is the result of the "Aspergillus" genus, which can cause infections, diseases and allergies.

The formation of mould stains is made worse by high levels of moisture, condensation and the formation of droplets indoors. This moisture, the fungal spores from the surrounding air and the dirt particles on the fabric all create optimal breeding grounds for a fungal attack, given the subtropical conditions.

In order to prevent the development of fungal infestation, regular ventilation (and the installation of air scoops) should be ensured, as well as thorough interior cleaning, i.e. cleaning the cover, all textiles and plastic surfaces to prevent the spreading of fungal spores.

A strong vinegar solution is recommended in order to thoroughly clean all textile and non-textile surfaces (please ensure good ventilation).

The use of chlorinated products for removing mould is not recommended for environmental reasons. Cleaning agents of this type can also cause lightening or white edges on textile surfaces. It is important to note that materials should not be machine washed using industrial cleaning products. Cleaning in this way leads to the coating and seams becoming damaged (causing leaks) as it involves too much mechanical friction and rigorous milling procedures.

### A few more tips:

- always ensure sufficient airing
- brush (when dry) or vacuum the cover regularly (outside/ inside)
- carry out regular cleaning with a mild soap solution
- remove tough stains (e.g. bird droppings) immediately
- do not cook under the cover  
(breeding ground for microorganisms)
- rinse off salt water immediately using fresh water  
(prevents white stripes/ edges forming)
- avoid storing the cover when damp (risk of mould)
- do not roll or lay together when wet (risk of mould)
- only store cover when dry and clean during winter
- when storing during winter, do not place another layer of tarpaulin over the cover (risk of mould)

Furthermore, it is recommended to have professional cleaning/reimpregnation carried out by specialists every 3-4 years.

We will happily provide you with information on cleaning companies.