



ITALIAN NAUTICAL UPHOLSTERY

USER AND MAINTENANCE MANUAL



SUITABLE MAINTENANCE
EXTENDS THE LIFETIME OF YOUR PRODUCT.

INDEX

Thank you for purchasing this product.
Follow the maintenance instructions to ensure
the product's characteristics remain unaltered.

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UNAVOIDABLE ISSUES

MOULD STAINS

These are unavoidable, however an explanation is provided below on the reasons they appear and how to reduce their multiplication.

THE RAW MATERIAL

The acrylic fibre used in the material is coated polyurethane, an organic polymer which is very resistant to mould and bacteria.

Its surface is not favourable for the development of mould, and its main characteristics are as follows:

- The presence of the best acrylic fibres solid dyed at source (with a high level of resistance to light).
- The special Teflon®SFC finish, which ensures resistance to dirt, water repellency, lightfastness and resistance to bad weather, rot, and immunity against rust and insects, anti-bacterial action, resistance against oil and grease in general, and breathability.
- Waterproof thanks to a special polyurethane resin coating, technically viewed to be the treatment with the best performance on the market.

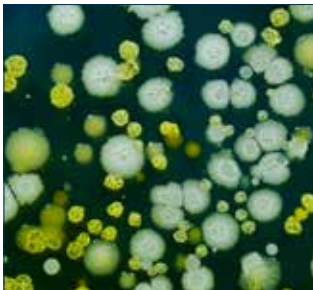
DIRT

The fungus in mould, whose scientific name is *Aspergillus*, doesn't attack the material as it needs organic dirt that accumulates over time as nutritional terrain.

Micro-organisms such as bacteria, fungi and yeasts have an important role in many biological flows.

These organisms are highly adaptable. In a favourable environment certain species of bacteria can develop from a single germ into colonies of millions of bacteria in a very short space of time.

To develop they mainly need dampness and dirt, which is digested via enzymes and transformed into mould.



Microbes are invisible to the naked eye. It is possible to smell or see their presence when they have the chance to multiply freely and start to act.

Clear signs of microbial contamination are marks, colour changes, and odours linked to the formation of mould.

FABRICS

Fabrics used outdoors are continually subjected to the effect of microbes. Unpleasant odours and stains are just the external signs of contamination.

As **fibres are also attacked at the same time**, certain characteristics such as tear resistance and waterproofing can be affected.

In damp areas, fabrics are subjected to greater attack from humidity and therefore mould.

CLIMATE

Given these important considerations, obviously the warm/damp environment in which boat covers are used represents a micro climate where *Aspergillus* fungus can develop rapidly.

BACTERICIDES

Special bactericides by Bayer® and other major companies that protect against micro-organisms are used on fabrics to block the development of mould in the resin finishing or completion phases.

These bactericides are biodegradable and comply with legislation on the environment and safeguarding the planet. However, it is essential to be thorough with **cleaning and maintenance**.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

One of the most important factors in the proliferation of mould is increasing atmospheric pollution combined with an accumulation of dirt on the fabric.

CARE AND MAINTENANCE

TEXTILES AND CANOPIES

GOOD VENTILATION

When fabric is damp or wet it should be dried before being put away. Canopies are nearly always folded away mistakenly when wet, facilitating the reproduction of mould.

CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE

Which users carry out good maintenance?

Canopies, sunshades or canvas must be **brushed** frequently when dry, where dust and dirt mostly accumulate.

Use a soft brush or vacuum cleaner.

Before these operations, the canvas must be **dry, and not wet** or damp, as in the latter case this would only help to spread dirt and worsen the situation.

Always use a neutral detergent and lots of water (maximum 30°C, being sure to rinse well). Finally, let it dry thoroughly before use.

Do not cause mechanical stress using equipment such as high pressure washers, hard brushes or steam equipment.

Do not use solvents or ammonia.

Unsuitable maintenance will decrease or remove the protection provided by the special bactericidal and water repellent finish.

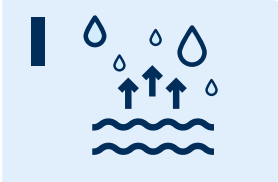
Users accept full responsibility in the event of non-compliance with these recommendations or if washing with other systems.

The fabrics used by Tappezzeria Nautica Toti Benito come from cutting-edge companies that continually strive to increase quality standards and offer high-performance products.

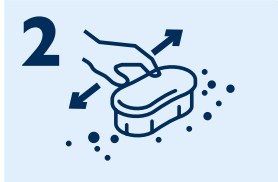
The fabric made of solid dyed polyester fabric is resistant to UV rays, and meets extremely high quality standards in terms of dimensional stability, tensile strength, resistance to lacerations, and protection from heat and atmospheric agents.

This material undergoes two special treatments: Softgard (**protection from dirt**) and Sanitized (**hygienic protection**).

Follow the 7 recommendations below to preserve its exceptional qualities:



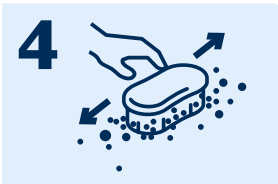
Let the material **dry** completely.



Remove as much dirt as possible with a soft bristle brush.



Prepare a solution of **warm water** (not boiling, maximum of 30°C) and a neutral detergent.



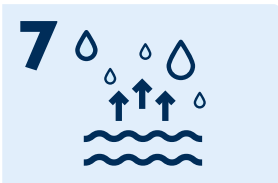
Rub **gently** with a soft bristle brush impregnated with the neutral detergent, concentrating on the more stubborn dirt marks.



Leave the solution to act for a few moments.



Rinse thoroughly with **clean water**.



Leave to dry in a **ventilated area**. Never expose to sources of excessive heat, to avoid damaging the material.

Do not use ammonia or other aggressive chemical detergents.

Avoid rubbing the heat welds on the seams.

A clean, dry canopy can last longer.

CARE AND MAINTENANCE
WINDOWS

CLEANING GLASS AND PVC

Clean regularly using products specially designed to maintain and prolong the lifetime of glass, or with simple soap and water, and dry with a soft cloth.
 The steps for suitable cleaning are outlined below.



Rinse the surface of the item carefully to cool it down and remove all traces of abrasive dust.



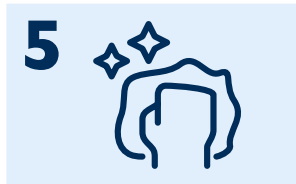
Dilute neutral soap in clean soft water.



Wash the glass using a soft cloth or cotton glove.



Rinse with plenty of soft water.



Dry with a clean chamois.



Dry washed sections immediately.

CURA E MANUTENZIONE

WINDOWS STRATAGLASS

To properly clean and maintain your STRATAGLASS products we only recommend using Strataglass Protective Cleaner and Strataglass Protective Polish. Both products are by IMAR and available through your STRATAGLASS provider or favorite retail marine store. Use of non-authorized cleaners or protectants may damage the Strataglass and void the warranty. ALWAYS use Strataglass Protective Cleaner to immediately remove harmful liquids, creams, chemicals or sprays that come in contact with the Strataglass surface. Rinsing the Strataglass Curtains: Each time you use the boat, flush the curtains thoroughly with clear water to rinse away any salt or environmental abrasives. Air dry or use a high quality chamois or a microfiber towel.

CLEANING AND POLISHING THE STRATAGLASS CURTAINS

Clean regularly every 1-2 weeks and polish every 1-2 months, this is the most important maintenance procedure to extend the life of the curtains.



Spray the Strataglass Protective Cleaner directly on the inside and outside surface of the STRATAGLASS or onto a soft cotton or micro fiber cloth.



Rinse to eliminate any residue.



Lightly buff with a dry soft cotton or micro fiber cloth to a sparkling smooth shine.



NEVER o Use Windex, Rain-X, Pledge, Plexus, Simple Green, Orpine or any other harsh cleaner to clean STRATAGLASS products.

Not use a car wax or any kind of wash and wax to protect STRATAGLASS products.



Apply a light coat of Strataglass Protective Polish, inside and out, with small, light circular motions using a soft cotton cloth or applicator pad. Allow the polish to quickly dry.

Avoid cleaners, polishes, scratch removers, or any products intended for commercial grade vinyl or plastic. This may damage the STRATAGLASS and void the warranty.

CARE AND MAINTENANCE

NEOPRENE

Neoprene is closed-cell expanded rubber produced by the polymerisation of chloroprene. Combining a specific blend of different types of rubber as a base substance with numerous other components obtains unique characteristics, such as:

- High dynamic load capability
- Resistance to atmospheric agents and ozone
- Good resistance to ageing
- Resistance to lacerations and abrasions
- High impact elasticity and expandability
- Resistance to sea water
- Resistance to bacteria and fungi
- Does not pollute



Use soft water for cleaning and maintenance operations.

Avoid directly exposing the neoprene to UV rays.

CARE AND MAINTENANCE

HEAT WELDS

Waterproof strips on seams are applied at a temperature of more than 500°C. The adhesive melts into the strip and grips the resin, forming a single piece and waterproofing the canopy.

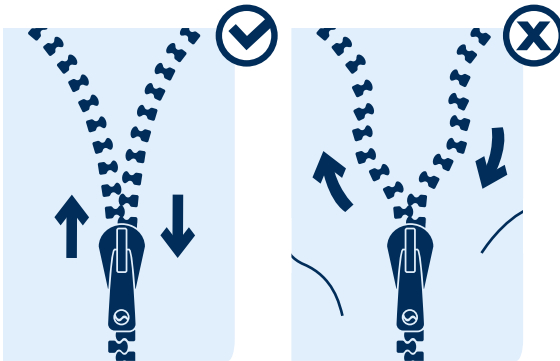
The lifetime of this type of solution depends on various factors, such as pollutants in the environment and unsatisfactory maintenance, which can cause the deterioration of the resin molecules and loosen the bond between the strip and the material, making it ineffective.

CARE AND MAINTENANCE

ZIPS

CORRECT USE

- Slowly move the slider as vertically as possible, ensuring that the fabric edges are free of creases (see illustration). In fact, if the two edges are not vertical, the slider or the zipper teeth could be damaged.
- **DO NOT FORCE:** the slider movement must be smooth and not subject to tension, neither when opening nor closing.



When closing the zip, it is recommended to avoid tension: the slider must slide effortlessly to prevent it and the zip teeth from breaking.

MAINTENANCE

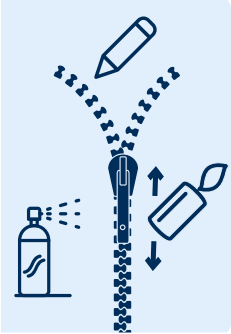
Zips made from UV-resistant plastic material require regular lubrication.

For a correct lubrication, we recommend using the following tools:

- candle wax or dry silicone;
- pencil: the graphite in B grade pencils is an excellent unblocker and rubbing it on the zip teeth will help get it working again.



Caution: do not apply lubricant to the zip when it is wet.



If the zip teeth are bent, use tweezers to straighten them, being careful not to tear them. Check that the procedure has been carried out correctly by opening and closing the zip.

CLEANING

Over time, dirt may form between the teeth of the zip, compromising its closure. When there are residues around the joints, the closure is less secure. To solve this problem:

- pour water and soap into a container and mix until foam forms;
- dip a clean cloth in the solution and use it to rub the zip teeth;
- take a new sponge, wet it with tap water and use it to rinse the soapy area;
- finally, try to open and close the zip.

CARE AND MAINTENANCE

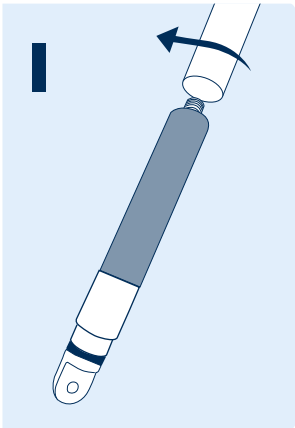
METAL PARTS

Metal parts should also be cleaned regularly. Use a soft cloth, wash with soft water and dry thoroughly, in order to remove salt deposits.

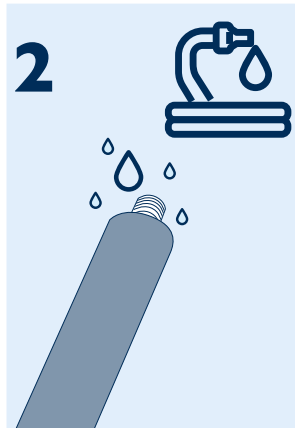
If marks that seem to be rust appear, clean with a suitable product: REBUFF liquid polish for metal produced by the certified laboratories division at NCH Italia Srl in Milan, or any cleaner specifically for stainless steel, observing any precautions provided with the product.

The main reasons that lead to the formation of rust include poor maintenance, scratches on the steel, external agents such as chemicals, the use of products for metals not suitable for stainless steel, materials that come into contact with the steel (e.g. sticky tape, stretch film or other metal alloys).

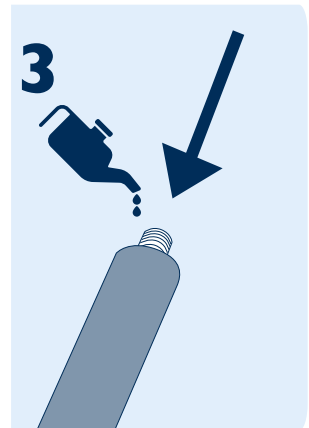
Carry out regular maintenance on the turnbuckles to prevent them from seizing.



1 Loosen the turnbuckle.



2 Wash with boiling soft water to remove salt deposited inside the coupling.



3 Lubricate the threaded part with grease.

WARNING:

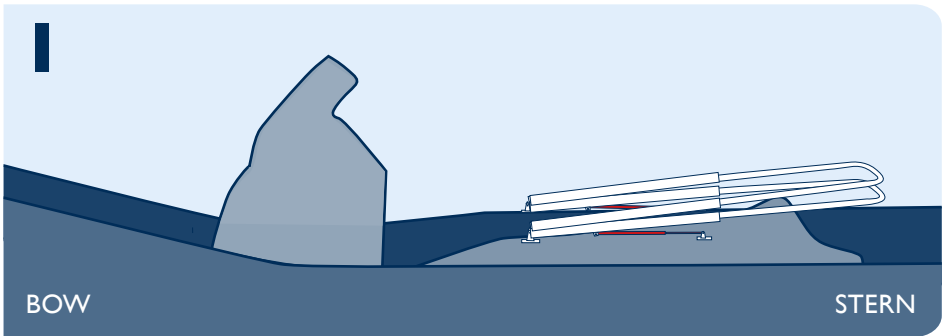
Return the turnbuckle to its original position.

For peg versions: the turnbuckle must be fitted in the reverse direction (with respect to figure 1) to prevent water from collecting.

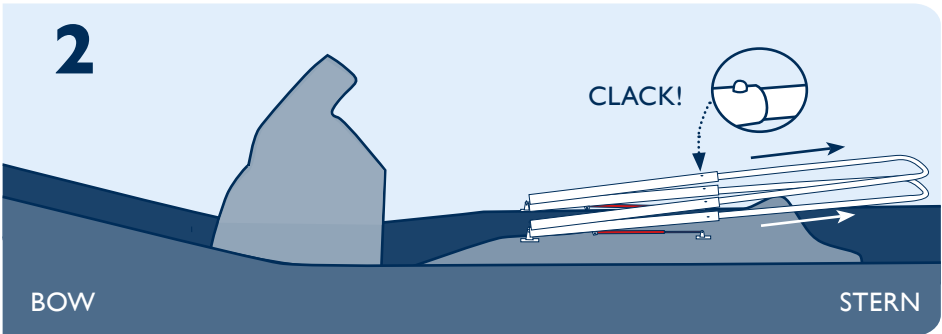
CARE AND MAINTENANCE

OPENING AND CLOSING AWNINGS WITH PULLER

Some awning arches have gas springs. To maximise their lifetime, follow the opening and closing procedure illustrated below.



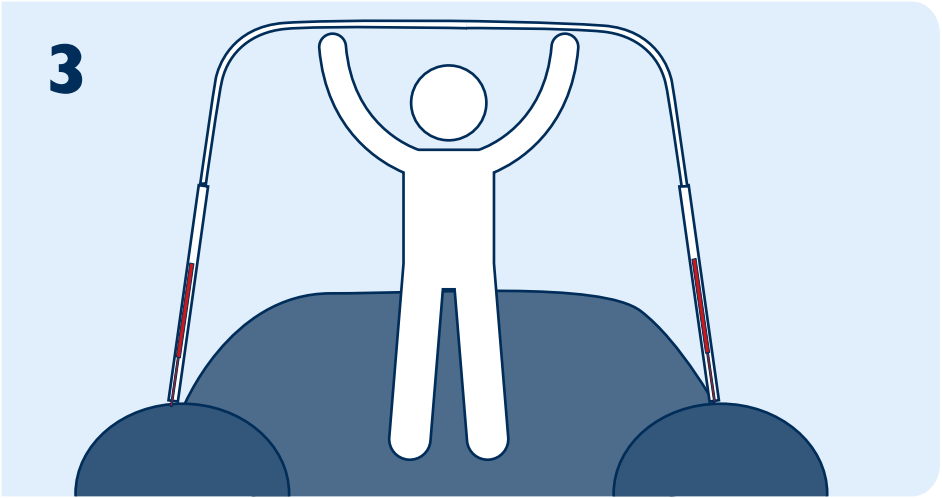
Example of a steel awning frame closed towards the stern (illustrated without canvas for the purpose of clarity).



Extract the telescopic arches until the piston locks into position (illustrated without canvas for the purpose of clarity).

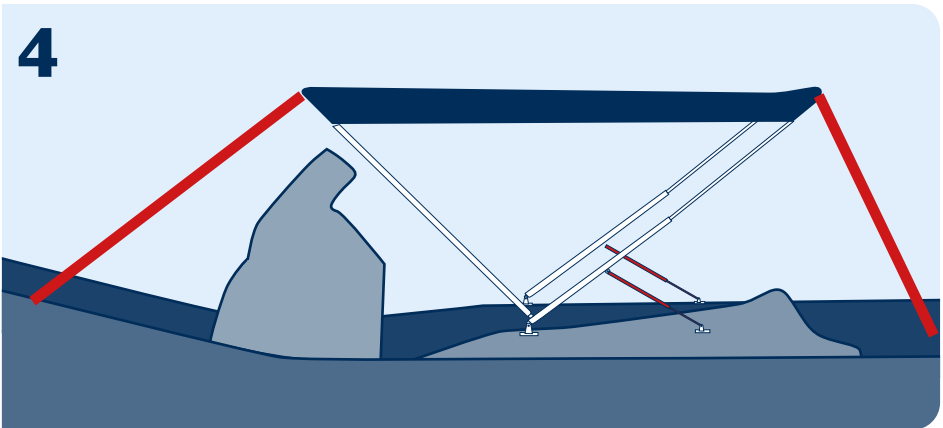


3



Open the steel arches slowly while standing in a central position such that the arms of the frame are in parallel (illustrated without canvas for the purpose of clarity).

4



Once the structure is open secure it with the belts.
REPEAT OPERATION IN REVERSE TO CLOSE
(Figs. 4, 3, 2 and 1)



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