

## **SAIL MAINTENANCE:**

Your sails should be protected from chafing. This can be done by either padding the areas that touch the sail or by having your sailmaker attach chafe patches to the sails themselves.

You should check your sails frequently for any signs of wear and have any tears or frayed stitches repaired immediately.

Sails should never be stored in the sun because they are susceptible to decay through exposure to too much ultraviolet light. Always keep your sails covered when they are not in use.

Sails should never be put away wet. If they are wet after sailing, leave them in loose bundles and dry them at your first opportunity.

For most problems, such as common dirt, dried or caked salt, etc., try scrubbing the surface with a soft bristled brush and liquid detergent. Avoid harsh powder detergents and stiff brushes, as they may damage the finish or stitching. This approach should work nicely for most applications. More severe stains can be taken care of by the following:

### **IMPORTANT: FOR WHITE SAILS ONLY**

#### **BLOOD:**

Soak the stained portion for 10 to 20 minutes in a solution of bleach (Clorox) and warm water. Generally 10 parts water to 1 part bleach. Scrub and repeat if necessary. Rinse thoroughly, particularly nylon, and dry thoroughly.

**OIL, GREASE, TAR, WAX:** Warm water, soap and elbow grease seem to be effective. On hard stains, proprietary stain remover and dry cleaning fluids should do the trick. Be careful to remove all fluids, as they can soften the various resinated coatings.

**RUST AND METALLIC STAINS:** These types of stains are very often the most frustrating and difficult to remove. First scrub with soap and water, and apply acetone, M.E.K., or alcohol. As a last resort, you might try a diluted mixture (5%) of Oxalic acid soaked for 10 to 15 minutes. Hydrochloric Acid, 2 parts to 100 in warm water, will also work.

#### **MILDEW:**

Hot soapy water with a little bleach will generally prevail. After scrubbing, leave the solution on the fabric for a few minutes and rinse thoroughly. When using a bleach, a residual chlorine smell may be present after rinsing. A 1% solution of Thiosulphate (photographers' Hypo) should remove all chlorine traces. Here again, rinse and dry well.

**PAINT AND VARNISH:** Acetone and M.E.K. should remove most common paint stains. Varnish can be easily removed with alcohol. Generally speaking, use all solvents with care. Always rinse and dry thoroughly. It should be emphasized that nylon ripstop spinnaker fabrics are less durable and more sensitive than their polyester counterparts. Bleaches and solvents can ruin nylon if not used properly.

Follow the above guidelines, take your sails into your sailmaker for periodic inspection, and you will have many effective seasons of racing and cruising pleasure.