



Mark and Kirsty Hunter on the Vacuwash Stand

VACUWASH - SAIL CLEANING AND PROTECTION TECHNOLOGY

LOOKING FOR a better way to clean sails? Well Vacuwash has the answer with their development of a washing technique for laminated and woven sails. The system has displayed extraordinary results using unique vacuum technology.

Mark and Kirsty Hunter are the proprietors of Vacuwash, set up under licence in Australia and NZ in a purpose built facility in North Curl Curl, NSW.

"This technology enables even laminated sails to be cleaned on both the outside and inside," said Mark. "The process is environmentally the 'greenest' and physically the most gentle to the textiles, since the vacuum does all the work in collaboration with a proprietary solution with no agitation involved."

Once cleaned, they apply an additional layer of SailkotePlus, a dry lubricant and anti-fungicide treatment. This will seal the sail the same way wax works on your car giving the sail even more resilience towards dirt and mildew in the future. SailkotePlus is used extensively by Olympic and top racing teams.

Mildew is a problem that every sailor encounters, especially since most of today's sails are made from laminated materials. The innovative Vacuwash system virtually eliminates mildew from sails by penetrating the multiple layers of film, as opposed to just

their surfaces, effectively removing mildew from deep in the fibres. The result is much cleaner sails with a longer lifespan.

Most sails are now made out of laminated materials, which replace woven polyester for a lighter and faster sail. The sails made with laminated materials have multiple layers glued together and water gets in between the layers, leading to terrible mildew problems.

"To effectively clean these sails, we need to really penetrate every layer, not just the sail's surface, to thoroughly remove the mildew," Mark explained.

"We refer to the system as the green and clean method. Our cleaning solutions are used more than once. After the cleaning process the fabrics are hung to air dry in a purpose fitted out facility. There are no drying machines which saves energy and the environment."

Mark and Kirsty point out that they did not go into this venture lightly and after much research could see that system was highly regarded in other parts of the world. "We've been getting an overwhelmingly positive response from our clients, who can't believe how clean Vacuwash gets their sails," Mark said. "There's nothing else like Vacuwash on the market. We specialise in removing mildew in sails without damaging the fabrics or adhesives in any way."

To keep sails in tip-top shape and avoid the spread of mildew and other air-borne fungicides, Vacuwash recommends washing and maintaining sails annually.

The system is not just for sails, it is for boat canvas as well. Any boat owner with a canvas Bimini top or storm covers will know the problems of keeping them clean.

Boat canvas is constantly in the weather which means that pollution, bird droppings, dust and dirt all accumulate and that then leads to the formation of mould and mildew. The Vacuwash process will remove all of this as well to give you canvas again looking like new. If looked after it will increase the life and lengthen the replacement cycle.

But most importantly is to prevent the same happening again and applying SailkotePlus will go a long way to doing just that.

For more information visit www.vacuwash.com.au

