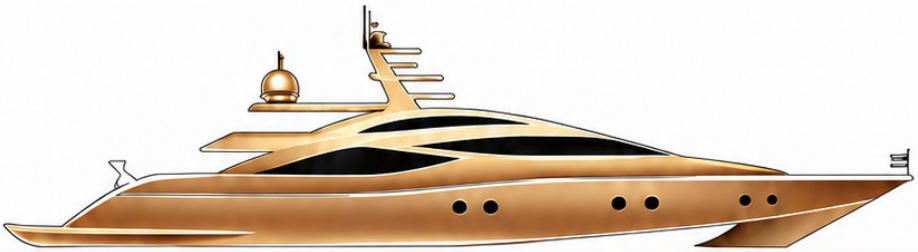
MARINE CARE

Yacht Care Guide

Gentle cleaning. Thoughtful yacht care. Premium surface protection.

MARINE CARE



by SILICONE PROTECTION

by SILICONE PROTECTION Kft.

the silicone surface protection specialist

Introduction

Yacht care is more than cleaning

A clean yacht is about more than appearance. Well-maintained surfaces, gleaming fittings, clear glass, a clean deck and an orderly cabin together create the feeling that makes a boat a truly special place.

A yacht is a different environment from a car, a terrace or a household surface. Water, salt, UV radiation, humidity, algae, sunscreen, oil, soot and marina grime place surfaces under constant strain. Cleaning must therefore be effective, carefully planned and gentle on surfaces.

This is the starting point for the MARINE CARE approach to yacht care.

The aim is not to solve every problem with one powerful cleaner. It is to give each surface the treatment suited to its material, condition and type of soiling.

Good yacht care requires attention. First identify the surface and the soiling, then select the right cleaner and tools. Cleaning becomes a controlled, consistent process rather than a hurried experiment.

MARINE CARE helps you do this.

This guide is for people who want more than a clean boat: they want well-maintained, orderly yacht surfaces that retain their value. Whether you are a boat owner, charter operator, marina maintenance worker or yacht-care professional, the aim is the same:

effective cleaning without unnecessary risk.

The MARINE CARE system provides cleaning solutions tailored to a yacht's exterior and interior surfaces. Marine Care Yacht Cleaner is intended for visibly effective cleaning of the hull and deck, while the other products provide targeted care for the engine room, glass, Perspex, metal, cabin, galley and sanitary areas, as well as mould-related stains on suitable washable surfaces.

A clean yacht does more than look better.

It creates an overall impression of better care, greater confidence and higher value.

Gentle, effective cleaning of gelcoat, plastic, metal, glass and deck surfaces

A yacht is more than a practical object. Its hull, deck, metal fittings, glass and interior spaces together create the experience that makes an owner or operator want to care for it.

Cleaning must therefore never be harsh, hurried or haphazard. Soiling on a yacht is not merely an aesthetic issue. Salt, algae, limescale, oily deposits, sunscreen, bird droppings, soot and marina grime may also affect the condition of surfaces over time.

MARINE CARE aims to make yacht care a carefully planned, surface-friendly and effective cleaning process, rather than a struggle involving excessive scrubbing or risky use of chemicals.

This guide helps you achieve cleaning that is not only visibly effective but also safer and more consistent.

1. Why is cleaning a yacht different?

A yacht is constantly moored or moving in an environment that places its surfaces under considerable strain. Water, sunlight, humidity, temperature fluctuations, salt, algae, marina dust and oily soiling are all present at once.

Most mistakes arise when people try to clean a boat in the same way as a car, garden furniture or a household surface. This is a dangerous oversimplification.

Yachts often have delicate, glossy, polished or specially coated surfaces. The aim is not to use the strongest possible cleaner, but to choose the right cleaning method for the particular soiling.

The three principles of good yacht cleaning:

1. Identify the surface first.

It matters whether you are cleaning gelcoat, paintwork, plastic, acrylic, glass, metal, wood or a rubber seal.

2. Identify the soiling accurately.

Algal deposits, limescale, oily soiling, salt residue and layers of soot each require a different approach.

3. Clean progressively.

Always start with the gentler approach. Excessive scrubbing, a coarse sponge or an unsuitable chemical can do more damage than the soiling itself.

2. The most common types of soiling on yachts

Different types of soiling occur on a boat's exterior and interior.

Algae, biofilm, limescale and mineral deposits are common on the hull and around the waterline. Oily and greasy soiling may also occur in marinas. Decks may be marked by sunscreen, drink spills, footwear, bird droppings, soot or ordinary urban dust.

Metal fittings may show water marks, signs of oxidation, salt residue and greasy fingerprints. It is particularly important not to use scratching tools on glass and Perspex. Inside, the main issues tend to be fingerprints, condensation, mould-prone corners, galley grease and limescale in sanitary areas.

The MARINE CARE approach does not involve treating every surface with a single cleaner that claims to do everything. Each surface should receive cleaning appropriate to its particular characteristics.

3. The MARINE CARE approach

The MARINE CARE approach to yacht care is simple:

protect the surface first, then achieve visibly clean results.

The aim is to remove soiling in a targeted, controlled way without placing unnecessary strain on the surface.

Marine Care Yacht Cleaner is designed to clean general and more specialised soiling from exterior yacht surfaces. Its role in the system is to demonstrate the strength of the brand first on the largest, most visible surfaces.

Marine Care Yacht Cleaner is therefore the entry product in the MARINE CARE system: its results are visible and easy to demonstrate, providing a sound basis for building the complete yacht-care range around it.

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4. The 10 golden rules of yacht cleaning

Yacht care is most effective when approached as a consistent system rather than an occasional experiment. Alongside cleanliness, always consider the integrity of the surface, the right tools, the cleaning sequence and environmental conditions.

The following 10 rules help make MARINE CARE products safer, more effective and more predictable to use.

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1. Always rinse first

Boat surfaces often carry salt, dust, sand, marina grime or other particulate deposits. Scrubbing these deposits while dry can cause scratches.

The first cleaning step must always be a thorough pre-rinse with plenty of water. This loosens and removes loose soiling, making subsequent cleaning safer.

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2. Identify the surface

It matters whether you are cleaning gelcoat, paintwork, Perspex, acrylic, chrome, stainless steel, rubber, wood or interior furniture.

Many different materials meet on a yacht. What works well on one surface may be too strong, too risky or simply unsuitable for another.

Good cleaning starts with identifying the surface.

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3. Identify the soiling

Discolouration at the waterline, a deck stain, a mark on metal or a deposit in the cabin does not always have the same cause.

It may be salt, algae, limescale, sunscreen, oil, diesel, soot, food residue, condensation or ordinary dirt from use.

You can select the right MARINE CARE product only when you know the type of soiling you are dealing with.

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4. Carry out a test clean

Every new, delicate or unknown surface must first be tested on a small, less visible area.

A test clean shows how the surface reacts to the cleaner, the dwell time and wiping.

This is particularly important on older hulls, dulled gelcoat, paintwork, Perspex, acrylic, chrome-plated metal, varnished furniture, wood and rubber seals.

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5. Do not work in direct sun

Hot surfaces and strong sunshine increase the risk of the cleaner drying onto the surface and causing marks.

Where possible, clean in shade, at a cooler time of day or in smaller sections.

The aim is to let the cleaner work without allowing it to dry onto the surface.

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6. Do not allow the cleaner to dry onto the surface

This is one of the most important rules.

The cleaner should remain on the surface only long enough to loosen the soiling. If it dries onto the surface, it may leave stains, produce an uneven finish or cause unwanted marks on delicate materials.

Always work in small sections and finish the treatment by rinsing thoroughly.

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7. Use soft, clean tools

Good cleaning is not about forceful scrubbing.

Soft microfibre cloths, non-scratching sponges and soft boat brushes are recommended for yacht surfaces.

Avoid wire scourers, coarse scouring pads, blades, scrapers, abrasive powders and any tool that could scratch or dull the surface.

Take particular care with Perspex, acrylic, glossy gelcoat and polished metal.

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8. Always rinse thoroughly

After cleaning, all loosened soiling and cleaner residue must be removed completely.

Thorough rinsing reduces the risk of staining and produces a better, more even finish.

It is particularly important that no cleaner residue remains on galley or sanitary surfaces, or on surfaces that come into contact with skin or food.

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9. Use the right product for each surface

The MARINE CARE system is not based on one universal solution.

Use Marine Care Yacht Cleaner for the hull and deck.
Use Marine Care Engine and Engine Room Cleaner for oily soiling in the engine room.
Use Marine Care Window Cleaner for glass, Perspex and acrylic.
Use Marine Care Chrome Shine for metal fittings.
Use Marine Care Cabin Furniture Cleaner for cabin interiors.
Use Marine Care Washbasin and Sanitary Cleaner for wet areas and other limescale-affected boat surfaces suitable for the product.
Use Marine Kitchen Degreaser – Galley Clean for the galley. Use Marine Care Mould & Mildew Stain Remover for mould-related stains on chlorine-resistant, washable surfaces, subject to the specific safety precautions. Use Marine Care Mould & Mildew Stain Remover for mould-related stains on chlorine-resistant, washable surfaces, subject to the specific safety precautions.

Choosing the right product reduces risk and improves the result.

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10. Regular, gentle cleaning is better than infrequent, harsh treatment

Yacht surfaces stay in good condition when layers of soiling are not allowed to build up over time.

Salt, sunscreen, bird droppings, oil, diesel, galley grease and deposits in wet areas should be dealt with as soon as possible.

Regular, gentle maintenance means fewer chemicals, less scrubbing and less risk.

At a glance

The 10 golden rules of yacht cleaning:

1. Rinse first.
2. Identify the surface.
3. Identify the soiling.
4. Carry out a test clean.
5. Do not work in direct sun.
6. Do not allow the cleaner to dry onto the surface.
7. Use soft, clean tools.
8. Rinse thoroughly.
9. Choose the right MARINE CARE product.

10. Clean regularly and gently.

Good yacht cleaning is a matter of sequence, attention and the right product, not force.

5. What not to do on yacht surfaces

Mistakes in yacht care often become apparent later rather than immediately. An overly strong cleaner, a harsh scouring tool or a cleaner allowed to dry in the sun may later cause dulling, staining or surface damage.

Mistakes to avoid:

Do not use an unfamiliar household cleaner without testing it first.

Do not work in direct sun or on hot surfaces.

Do not allow the cleaner to dry onto the surface.

Do not use coarse scourers, wire pads or scratching brushes on delicate surfaces.

Do not mix different cleaners.

Do not treat gelcoat, Perspex, chrome, wood and rubber in the same way.

Do not tell yourself that you can simply scrub harder. Good cleaning relies on the right method, not force.

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6. The basic principle: test clean first

Every new surface, unknown coating or delicate area must be tested first.

A test clean is not a formality. It shows how the surface responds to the cleaner, how long it needs to act, whether mechanical assistance is required and whether any visible change remains.

Always carry out the test clean in a less noticeable area. Proceeding to a larger area is recommended only if the test result is satisfactory.

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7. The correct cleaning sequence

The recommended sequence for yacht cleaning:

1. Pre-rinse

First remove loose dust, sand, salt and surface dirt with water. This reduces the risk of scratching.

2. Identify the surface

Check the material you are working on: gelcoat, paintwork, plastic, metal, glass, wood or a seal.

3. Test clean

Check the effect on a small, less visible area.

4. Apply the cleaner

Apply the cleaner evenly to the surface to be treated. Do not use more product than necessary.

5. Short dwell time

Allow time for the soiling to loosen, but do not leave the surface unattended. The cleaner must not dry onto it.

6. Wipe gently

Assist cleaning with a soft brush, microfibre cloth or suitable sponge.

7. Rinse thoroughly

The surface must be rinsed thoroughly with clean water.

8. Dry and inspect

Wipe the cleaned surface dry, then inspect the result. Repeat the treatment locally if necessary.

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8. Good tools matter as much as a good cleaner

Tool selection is central to yacht care.

Recommended tools:

soft microfibre cloth,

soft boat brush,

non-scratching sponge,

spray bottle,

separate cloths for glass and metal,

separate cloth for interior surfaces,

clean rinsing water,

dry, lint-free wiping cloth.

The most important rule: if you would not confidently use a tool on a glossy, delicate surface, do not use it on a yacht either.

8.1 Microfibre cloths in yacht care

In yacht care, a microfibre cloth is not simply an accessory: it is one of the most important tools for protecting surfaces. Even a good cleaner can give poor results if used with the wrong cloth, a dirty cloth or a cloth with an unsuitable pile length.

A microfibre cloth does more than wipe the surface. A good cloth picks up loosened soiling, reduces the risk of scratching, helps surfaces dry evenly and contributes to a spotless, premium finish.

It is particularly important to use separate cloths for each type of surface on a yacht. A cloth used in the engine room, sanitary areas, galley or on heavily soiled exterior surfaces must not be reused on gelcoat, Perspex, acrylic, glass or chrome.

8.1.1 Which cloth should be used on which surface?

Gelcoat, glossy hulls and polished exterior surfaces

Recommended cloth: A premium, soft microfibre cloth; preferably a 70/30 or high-quality 80/20 polyester/polyamide blend; 400–600 GSM for general wiping and 600–800 GSM for final drying; edgeless or with a very soft edge.

Important rule: Use only a completely clean cloth. Once a cloth has picked up sand, salt crystals, dust or marina grime, it is no longer suitable for glossy surfaces.

Decks, walking surfaces and non-slip surfaces

Recommended cloth: A durable, medium-density microfibre work cloth; 300–400 GSM; an 80/20 blend; short or medium pile.

Important rule: Do not subsequently use a deck cloth on Perspex, acrylic, glossy gelcoat or chrome-plated surfaces.

Glass surfaces

Recommended cloth: A specialist glass-cleaning microfibre cloth; waffle weave, or a short-pile, lint-free glass cloth; 250–350 GSM, or possibly 300–400 GSM.

Important rule: Keep glass cloths for glass. After use on greasy or oily surfaces, in sanitary areas or in the engine room, they must never be used on glass again.

Perspex and acrylic surfaces

Recommended cloth: An extra-soft, lint-free microfibre cloth; a 70/30 blend is preferable; 300–500 GSM; very fine, short or medium plush pile; edgeless or with an ultra-soft edge.

Important rule: On Perspex and acrylic, dry wiping, paper towels, coarse cloths, dirty cloths and vigorous scrubbing over particulate dirt are prohibited.

Chrome, stainless steel and polished metal

Recommended cloth: A medium-density microfibre cloth for cleaning; 300–400 GSM; a separate soft, dry cloth for final buffing; short or medium pile.

Important rule: Metal-cleaning cloths may retain small particles of metal, salt or oxidised deposits. Do not reuse them on Perspex, acrylic or gelcoat.

Cabin furniture, varnished interior surfaces and plastic components

Recommended cloth: A soft, medium-density microfibre cloth; 300–400 GSM; an 80/20 or 70/30 blend; short or medium pile; lint-free.

Important rule: On wood, veneer, varnished or delicate interior surfaces, the cloth should be only slightly damp. Too much water or a dirty cloth can cause staining or microscratches.

Galley surfaces

Recommended cloth: A general-purpose microfibre cloth that washes well; 300–400 GSM; an 80/20 blend; medium pile; kept separate according to the galley colour code.

Important rule: After cleaning, surfaces that come into contact with food must always be wiped with clean water.

Sanitary fittings and wet areas

Recommended cloth: A dedicated sanitary-area microfibre cloth; 250–350 GSM; an 80/20 blend; durable and suitable for frequent washing; in a clearly distinct colour.

Important rule: A sanitary cloth must remain exclusively for sanitary use. It must never be used in the galley, on cabin furniture, glass, Perspex or glossy exterior surfaces.

Engine and engine room

Recommended cloth: A durable microfibre cloth of lower or medium grade; 250–350 GSM; an 80/20 or more economical blend; dark-coloured; disposable or downgraded cloths may be used.

Important rule: An engine-room cloth must never be returned to clean or delicate surfaces. Once used for oily, diesel-contaminated or sooty work, keep it for the engine room or discard it.

8.1.2 The composition of microfibre cloths

Microfibre cloths are most commonly made from polyester and polyamide. Polyester provides structure, shape retention, abrasion resistance and durability. Polyamide increases softness, water absorption and gentleness in contact with the surface.

80/20 polyester/polyamide

A general-purpose, durable, affordable blend. Suitable for decks, cabins, galleys, sanitary areas and general exterior cleaning. It is not always the best choice for the most delicate Perspex, acrylic or premium gelcoat.

70/30 polyester/polyamide

A softer, more absorbent, premium option. Better suited to glossy gelcoat, Perspex, acrylic, polished surfaces, final wiping of chrome and premium interior surfaces.

75/25 polyester/polyamide

A good compromise: generally softer and more absorbent than a basic 80/20 cloth, without necessarily costing as much as a premium 70/30 cloth.

90/10 or lower quality

Generally firmer, less absorbent and riskier on delicate surfaces. More suitable for the engine room, heavily soiled technical components or less delicate tasks.

8.1.3 GSM: what does cloth thickness mean?

GSM stands for grams per square metre. It indicates a cloth's density, thickness and weight. Lower GSM generally means a thinner, quicker-to-use, less absorbent cloth. Higher GSM may mean a softer, thicker, more absorbent cloth, but it is not better for every task.

GSM category	Characteristics	Suggested use
200–300 GSM	A thinner, lighter cloth.	Dusting, less delicate interior surfaces, galleys, sanitary areas, engine rooms and pre-cleaning.
300–400 GSM	A general-purpose yacht-care work cloth.	Decks, cabins, metal fittings, galleys, sanitary areas and general exterior cleaning.

GSM category	Characteristics	Suggested use
400–600 GSM	A softer, denser, higher-quality cloth.	Gelcoat, glossy hulls, premium exterior surfaces, final wiping of chrome and drying smaller areas.
600–800 GSM or higher	A very soft, thick, highly absorbent cloth.	Final drying, polished surfaces, premium gelcoat care and clean surfaces susceptible to scratching.

Important: A thinner, specialist waffle-weave cloth is often better for glass, while a softer cloth with a higher GSM is preferable for gelcoat and final drying.

8.1.4 Cloth weave and pile length

Short-pile cloth: Less plush, easier to control and less prone to smearing. A good choice for interiors, glass, metal, galleys and sanitary areas.

Long-pile, plush cloth: Softer, better at trapping loose soiling and gentler on glossy surfaces. Recommended for gelcoat, polished surfaces and final wiping.

Waffle-weave cloth: A cloth with a recessed, waffle-like weave. It absorbs moisture well, often gives a more streak-free result on glass and is less plush.

Suede or ultrasuede cloth: A microfibre cloth with a very smooth, fine surface. It may be useful for Perspex, acrylic, displays and delicate transparent surfaces, but must be used only when completely clean.

8.1.5 Colour coding in the MARINE CARE system

A microfibre cloth's colour should primarily identify its area of use, not its quality. This helps prevent cross-contamination. It is particularly dangerous to transfer the same cloth from the engine room to gelcoat, from sanitary areas to the galley, from the deck to Perspex, from metal cleaning to glass, or from oily surfaces to cabin furniture.

Colour	Area of use	Suggested quality
White / off-white	Premium gelcoat, glossy hulls and final wiping.	70/30, 500–800 GSM, extra-soft, edgeless or with an ultra-soft edge.
Light blue	Glass, Perspex, acrylic and transparent plastic surfaces.	70/30 or fine 80/20, 300–500 GSM; waffle weave for glass, fine weave for Perspex.
Dark blue	General exterior cleaning, decks and hulls.	80/20 or 75/25, 300–500 GSM, medium pile.
Grey / silver	Chrome, stainless steel, metal fittings and rails.	300–500 GSM, short or medium pile.
Yellow	Cabins, furniture and interior plastic surfaces.	300–400 GSM, soft and lint-free.
Green	Galleys, food preparation surfaces and worktops.	300–400 GSM, washes well, 80/20.
Red	Sanitary fittings, washbasins, shower areas and wet areas.	250–350 GSM, for sanitary use only.
Black / dark grey	Engine rooms, areas around engines, oil, diesel and soot.	250–350 GSM, a technical cloth that can be discarded if necessary.

8.1.6 The sequence for using cloths

When cleaning a yacht, cloth use must follow the cleaning sequence too. Never use the same cloth for heavy cleaning and final buffing.

- Start with a thorough pre-rinse using plenty of water.
- Remove heavier soiling with a soft brush or general-purpose work cloth.
- A medium-density work cloth may be used for wiping with cleaner.
- After rinsing thoroughly, dry the surface with a clean, softer cloth.
- Use a premium cloth for the final wipe on delicate or glossy surfaces.

8.1.7 When should a cloth be downgraded or discarded?

A microfibre cloth does not last forever. Over time, it may retain dirt, become stiff, shed lint, lose absorbency or pose a scratching risk.

Downgrading is recommended if the cloth is no longer completely soft, remains dirty after washing, has picked up oil or diesel, has been used in sanitary areas, has picked up sand or salt particles, sheds lint, develops stiff edges or feels coarser.

Suggested lifecycle: premium gelcoat cloth → general exterior cloth → deck cloth → engine-room or technical cloth → disposal.

A sanitary cloth must not follow this lifecycle. It must always remain a sanitary cloth, then be discarded.

8.1.8 Washing and storing microfibre cloths

A microfibre cloth is safe only when kept clean. A poorly washed cloth, one treated with fabric conditioner or one washed with lint-shedding textiles may lose its cleaning advantages.

- Wash microfibre cloths separately from cotton, towels and lint-shedding textiles.
- Do not use fabric conditioner: it can coat the microfibres and reduce absorbency.
- Do not use bleach.
- Do not wash engine-room or sanitary cloths together with premium cloths.
- Do not dry at excessively high temperatures.
- Store them clean and dry.
- Keep clean and used cloths in separate bags or boxes.

8.1.9 The MARINE CARE basic rule for microfibre cloths

A good cloth is not good because it is expensive, but because it is used on the right surface, in the right condition and at the right level of cleanliness.

- Use only clean, soft cloths on delicate surfaces.
- Use a dedicated cloth for Perspex and acrylic.
- An engine-room cloth must never be reused on a clean surface.
- Keep sanitary cloths exclusively for sanitary use.
- Use only dedicated, lint-free cloths on glass.
- Gelcoat requires a premium, soft, clean cloth.
- Always follow the colour code consistently.

In yacht care, a microfibre cloth is not merely a minor consumable: it is one of the essential requirements for protecting surfaces.

The right cloth, the right surface and the right colour code are among the keys to safe MARINE CARE yacht care.

8.2 Brushes and sponges in yacht care

Which tools should be used on gelcoat, decks, Perspex and metal, and in cabins, galleys and engine rooms?

In yacht care, brushes and sponges are at least as important as the cleaner itself. An unsuitable tool may scratch, dull, clean unevenly or leave permanent surface marks. The right tool helps the cleaner work: it loosens soiling, distributes the cleaner and reduces the risk of unnecessary scrubbing.

The MARINE CARE approach is to select the right tool for the right surface, rather than scrub harder. Glossy gelcoat, non-slip decks, Perspex and metal fittings each need different tools, while engine rooms and sanitary areas have entirely different requirements.

Basic rule: A tool used in the engine room, sanitary areas, on heavily greasy surfaces or for heavy deck dirt must not be reused on gelcoat, Perspex, acrylic, chrome or interior furniture.

8.2.1 The main types of yacht-care brush

When selecting brushes, consider three factors: bristle stiffness, brush size and the surface on which it will be used. Bristles that are too stiff may damage glossy surfaces, while an overly soft brush may not clean textured decks effectively enough.

Extra-soft wash brush

An extra-soft wash brush is intended for glossy, delicate exterior surfaces. Use it where the aim is to distribute the cleaner gently and carefully remove loosened soiling, not to scour harshly.

- Recommended surfaces: glossy gelcoat, smooth hulls, polished exterior surfaces and larger, smooth plastic surfaces.
- Suggested use: after pre-rinsing, with Marine Care Yacht Cleaner, using light pressure.
- Avoid: scrubbing dry surfaces, surfaces with sand or salt particles, or scrubbing with heavy pressure.

Soft deck brush

A soft deck brush is a general-purpose exterior work brush. It may be used on decks, less delicate exterior plastic surfaces, around handholds and where a cloth is no longer effective enough.

- Recommended surfaces: decks, walking surfaces, exterior plastic components, and areas that have been rinsed and wetted.
- Suggested use: long, controlled strokes rather than vigorous circular scrubbing.
- Avoid: Perspex, acrylic, freshly polished gelcoat and varnished furniture surfaces.

Medium deck brush for textured surfaces

Dirt, sunscreen, footwear marks and marina grime readily collect in the recesses of non-slip, textured decks. A cloth or very soft sponge is often insufficient for these surfaces.

- Recommended surfaces: non-slip decks, textured walking surfaces and less delicate exterior areas.
- Suggested use: only on wet surfaces, for soiling already loosened by cleaner.
- Avoid: smooth, glossy hulls, Perspex, acrylic, chrome, varnished surfaces and delicate paintwork.

Detailing brush

A detailing brush is a small tool for targeted cleaning. It is useful where dirt collects in gaps, around hinges, at the bases of handholds, around drains or in hard-to-reach corners.

- Recommended areas: around hinges, the bases of fittings, drains, screw heads, corners and gaps.
- Suggested use: with light pressure, on specific areas, always after testing.
- Avoid: scrubbing large areas, Perspex, acrylic and glossy, polished surfaces.

Engine-room and technical brush

Engine-room brushes form a separate category. They encounter oily, greasy, diesel-contaminated or sooty dirt and must not be reused on other yacht surfaces.

- Recommended areas: engine rooms, around engines and oily or greasy technical components.
- Suggested use: with Marine Care Engine and Engine Room Cleaner, applying the cleaner in a controlled manner.
- Avoid: gelcoat, decks, glass, Perspex, cabin furniture, galleys and sanitary areas.

8.2.1.1 The MARINE CARE brush grading system (MC-B1–MC-B5)

There is no uniform international brush-stiffness numbering system with the same meaning across all manufacturers. Descriptions such as “soft”, “medium” and “hard” are generally manufacturers' categories, so identically named brushes from two manufacturers do not necessarily place the same mechanical load on a surface.

MARINE CARE therefore uses its own internal brush grading system, linked to intended use. The MC-B designation is not an ISO, DIN or other international standard: it is MARINE CARE's own classification. The system considers bristle stiffness, recommended construction, area of use and prohibited surfaces together.

The aim is to make cleaning recommendations more specific than simply “use a soft brush”, by identifying the quality and intended use of the tool required.

Code	Grade	Suggested bristles / construction	Recommended use	Avoid
MC-B1	Extra-soft / premium	Very fine, flexible synthetic bristles; preferably dense, with split or finely rounded tips.	Glossy gelcoat, smooth hulls, polished exterior surfaces and delicate, smooth plastics. After pre-rinsing, with light pressure.	Dry surfaces or surfaces with sand/salt particles; harsh scrubbing; heavy pressure.
MC-B2	Soft / general exterior	Soft, flexible synthetic bristles with surface-friendly tips.	Decks, walking surfaces, exterior plastic components and general exterior cleaning on wet surfaces.	Perspex, acrylic, freshly polished gelcoat and varnished furniture surfaces.
MC-B3	Medium / textured surfaces	Medium-stiffness synthetic bristles that retain their shape well.	Non-slip or textured decks, textured walking surfaces and soiling lodged in recesses.	Smooth, glossy hulls, Perspex, acrylic, chrome, varnished surfaces and delicate paintwork.
MC-B4	Detailing / precision	Dense, soft-to-medium synthetic bristles with a short or narrow head; a design that is easy to control.	Hinges, bases of fittings, drains, screw heads, corners and gaps. With light pressure, on specific areas.	Scrubbing large areas; Perspex and acrylic; glossy, polished surfaces without testing first.
MC-B5	Technical / engine room	Durable, medium-to-firmer synthetic bristles resistant to oil and cleaners; easy-to-clean construction.	Engines, engine rooms and oily, greasy, diesel-contaminated or sooty technical areas. Exclusively as a dedicated engine-room tool.	Gelcoat, decks, glass, Perspex, chrome, cabin furniture, galleys and sanitary areas.

Important: MC-B1–MC-B5 always refers to MARINE CARE's own classification. Another manufacturer's “soft”, “medium” or “hard” rating must not automatically be equated with a particular MC-B grade.

Do not use brushes as the primary tool on Perspex and acrylic. A clean, soft microfibre cloth of suitable quality is the safer default tool for these surfaces.

MARINE CARE tool rule: Whenever a cleaning recommendation specifies a brush, also specify its MC-B grade.

8.2.2 Sponges and wash mitts

Sponges and wash mitts distribute cleaner well and are convenient for larger surfaces. Their disadvantage is that they can readily scratch if they pick up particulate dirt. Use sponges and wash mitts only on pre-rinsed surfaces.

Soft yacht-washing sponge

A soft yacht-washing sponge may be used for general exterior washing. Its main purpose is to distribute the cleaner and pick up loosened dirt.

- Recommended surfaces: hulls, exterior plastic surfaces and less delicate, smooth areas.
- Suggested use: on surfaces pre-rinsed with plenty of water, rinsing the sponge regularly.
- Avoid: dry wiping, sandy surfaces, heavy pressure, Perspex and acrylic.

Microfibre wash mitt

On glossy gelcoat, a microfibre wash mitt may be softer and gentler on the surface than a conventional sponge. Longer microfibres lift some of the loose soiling between the fibres, potentially reducing the risk of direct scratching.

- Recommended surfaces: gelcoat, smooth hulls and glossy exterior surfaces.
- Suggested use: with the two-bucket method or frequent rinsing, always keeping the mitt clean.

- Avoid: engine rooms, sanitary areas, heavily soiled decks, and sand or gravel contamination.

Non-scratching cleaning sponge

A non-scratching cleaning sponge may be useful on decks, galley areas or less delicate interior surfaces. However, “non-scratching” does not mean that it is unconditionally safe on every yacht surface.

- Recommended surfaces: galley surfaces, less delicate plastic components and usage marks on decks.
- Suggested use: after a test clean, with light pressure.
- Avoid: Perspex, acrylic, glossy gelcoat, chrome, and freshly polished or varnished surfaces.

Melamine or “magic” sponge

A melamine sponge can visibly remove many stubborn marks, but must be used with great care. It can be mildly abrasive and is not suitable as a general yacht-washing tool. It is recommended only for small, targeted tests on less delicate surfaces.

- Recommended use: stubborn localised marks on less delicate, more matt surfaces, exclusively after testing.
- Suggested use: with very light pressure, briefly, on a small area.
- Avoid: glossy gelcoat, polished surfaces, Perspex, acrylic, chrome, varnished furniture and paintwork.

8.2.3 Quality parameters for wash mitts and sponges

Quality criteria can be specified for both microfibre wash mitts and sponges, but the approach is different. A wash mitt is a textile-based microfibre tool, so its blend and GSM matter. Sponges should instead be selected according to their material, cell structure, softness, absorbency and surface roughness.

Microfibre wash-mitt quality

A microfibre wash mitt can be one of the gentlest cleaning tools for glossy, smooth exterior yacht surfaces when it is of suitable quality and kept clean.

- 70/30 or high-quality 80/20 polyester/polyamide blend;
- at least 400-600 GSM for general yacht care, 600-800 GSM for premium use;
- long-pile, plush or chenille microfibre surface;
- soft seams or a design without hard edging;
- good absorption of water and cleaner;
- comfortable, secure interior construction that does not readily slip off the hand during use.

A wash mitt is particularly recommended for gently washing gelcoat, glossy hulls, smooth plastics and larger exterior surfaces. Always pre-rinse the surface with plenty of water: sand, salt crystals or marina dust trapped in the mitt may present a scratching risk.

A microfibre wash mitt is not suitable for engine rooms, oily surfaces, sanitary areas or heavily soiled deck areas with coarse particles. Once it has come into contact with oil, diesel or coarse dirt, it must not be reused on gelcoat or glossy surfaces.

Quality criteria for sponges

Sponge quality should be assessed by material, cell structure, softness, absorbency and surface roughness, not by GSM. A good yacht-washing sponge picks up and distributes water containing cleaner without scratching, dulling or unnecessarily stressing the surface.

- it should have a soft, non-scratching surface;
- it should absorb water well;
- it should be flexible and easy to squeeze out;

- it should be sized for convenient use on larger surfaces;
- it should not readily crumble;
- it should not retain coarse particles immediately next to the surface being cleaned.

A soft, open-cell polyurethane yacht-washing sponge may be suitable for washing hulls, decks and general exterior surfaces. On glossy gelcoat or delicate plastic surfaces, use only a clean, soft, non-scratching sponge.

Sponges must be kept separate, just like microfibre cloths. Use separate sponges for exterior washing, the galley, sanitary areas and the engine room. A sponge used for engine-room dirt, oil or diesel must not be reused on clean exterior surfaces.

Quick quality-reference table for wash mitts and sponges

Tool / type	Suggested quality criteria	Recommended use	Avoid
Microfibre wash mitt	70/30 or premium 80/20, 400-800 GSM, long-pile or chenille	gelcoat, glossy hulls and smooth exterior surfaces	engine rooms, sanitary areas, oily surfaces or surfaces with particulate dirt
Soft yacht-washing sponge	soft, open-cell polyurethane with good water absorption	hulls, decks and general exterior washing	dry scrubbing, sandy surfaces, Perspex/acrylic
PVA sponge	highly absorbent, smooth construction, easy to squeeze out	water absorption, quick drying and areas around glass	oily engine rooms and heavy deck dirt
Non-scratching cleaning sponge	fine surface, suitable for use after a test clean	galleys, less delicate plastics and localised stains	glossy gelcoat, chrome, Perspex and acrylic
Melamine sponge	mildly abrasive cleaning foam, for localised testing only	stubborn marks on less delicate surfaces	gelcoat, Perspex, acrylic, chrome, varnished surfaces and paintwork
Engine-room or sanitary sponge	dedicated, durable and discardable if necessary	engines/engine rooms or sanitary areas, exclusively within its assigned area	all clean or delicate yacht surfaces

Use melamine sponges with care

Melamine sponges, also known as “eraser sponges” or “magic sponges”, may help remove certain stubborn marks, but must be used carefully on yacht surfaces.

A melamine sponge is mildly abrasive: it may have a scrubbing effect at a microscopic level. It is therefore not recommended as the primary tool on glossy gelcoat, polished surfaces, Perspex, acrylic, chrome-plated metal, paintwork or varnished areas.

If it is needed, it may be used only after a test on a small, less noticeable area, with very light pressure and as a localised treatment.

MARINE CARE basic rule: A melamine sponge is not a general yacht-washing tool, but an occasional tool for careful, localised cleaning.

8.2.4 Which tool is suitable for which surface?

Tool	Recommended surfaces	Purpose	Avoid
Extra-soft wash brush	gelcoat, smooth hulls and glossy exterior surfaces	gentle exterior washing	heavy pressure and dry scrubbing
Soft deck brush	decks and exterior plastic components	general exterior cleaning	Perspex, acrylic and freshly polished surfaces
Medium deck brush	non-slip, textured surfaces	loosening dirt lodged in recesses	glossy gelcoat, chrome and Perspex
Detailing brush	gaps, hinges and bases of fittings	targeted cleaning in hard-to-reach areas	scouring large areas and delicate surfaces

Tool	Recommended surfaces	Purpose	Avoid
Soft yacht-washing sponge	hulls and smooth exterior surfaces	distributing cleaner	sandy surfaces, Perspex and acrylic
Microfibre wash mitt	glossy gelcoat and smooth hulls	gentle washing	engine rooms and heavily soiled decks
Non-scratching sponge	galleys, less delicate plastics and localised stains	targeted cleaning	glossy, polished and transparent surfaces
Melamine sponge	less delicate surfaces, only after localised testing	careful treatment of stubborn marks	gelcoat, Perspex, acrylic, chrome and varnished surfaces
Engine-room brush/sponge	engines and engine rooms	treating oil, grease, diesel and soot	all clean or delicate surfaces

8.2.5 Colour coding for brushes and sponges

As with microfibre cloths, colour coding is useful for brushes and sponges. Here too, colour identifies the area of use, not quality. The aim is to prevent cross-contamination.

Colour	Tool / area	Suggested use
White or light blue	extra-soft brush or soft wash mitt	gelcoat, glossy hulls and delicate exterior surfaces
Dark blue	general-purpose exterior brush or sponge	hulls, decks and use of Marine Care Yacht Cleaner
Grey	detailing brush for metal or dedicated metal-cleaning sponge	chrome, stainless steel and areas around fittings
Yellow	soft interior sponge or brush	cabins, furniture and interior plastic surfaces
Green	galley sponge	galleys, worktops and areas around sinks
Red	sanitary brush or sponge	washbasins, showers and wet areas
Black or dark grey	engine-room brush/sponge	engines, engine rooms, oil, grease, diesel and soot

8.2.6 Rules for using brushes and sponges

1. Always begin with a pre-rinse so that sand, salt and loose particles do not scratch the surface.
2. Rinse the brush or sponge regularly during use.
3. Do not use the same tool for heavy deck dirt and glossy gelcoat.
4. For Perspex and acrylic, preferably use a clean, soft microfibre cloth rather than a brush.
5. Always keep galley, sanitary and engine-room tools separate.
6. Do not substitute heavy pressure for the cleaner's action. If the dirt does not loosen, repeat the treatment in a controlled manner instead.
7. Wash brushes and sponges after use, dry them and store them clean.
8. If a tool becomes stiff, sheds lint, remains oily or retains particulate dirt, stop using it on delicate surfaces.

8.2.7 When should a brush or sponge be downgraded?

The lifecycle of yacht-care tools should be managed in the same way as that of microfibre cloths. A tool suitable for premium surfaces when new may later be suitable only for general exterior work, then for decks or engine rooms.

- Downgrading is recommended if the bristles become bent, stiff or splayed.
- Downgrading is recommended if particulate dirt remains in the sponge.
- Downgrading is recommended if the tool has picked up oil, diesel or soot.
- Downgrading is recommended if the brush or sponge can no longer be cleaned completely.
- A tool used in sanitary areas must remain a sanitary tool, then be discarded.
- An engine-room tool must never be reused on clean surfaces.

Suggested lifecycle: premium exterior tool → general exterior tool → deck tool → technical or engine-room tool → disposal.

8.2.8 The MARINE CARE basic rule for brushes and sponges

A good yacht-care brush or sponge is not good because it scrubs hard, but because it safely assists the cleaner's action on the right surface.

The MARINE CARE basic rule: a soft tool for delicate surfaces, a suitable deck brush for textured surfaces, dedicated technical tools for the engine room and dedicated hygiene tools for sanitary areas.

The right cleaner + the right cloth + the right brush or sponge + the right sequence: these form the basis of safe, premium MARINE CARE yacht care.

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9. The role of Marine Care Yacht Cleaner in the system

Marine Care Yacht Cleaner is the range's primary demonstration product.

Its purpose is to deliver visible, readily noticeable results when cleaning hulls and exterior yacht surfaces. It is particularly important when introducing the range, because cleaning results on a boat's exterior are immediately visible.

The complete MARINE CARE system may subsequently be expanded with further targeted products:

Marine Care Engine and Engine Room Cleaner,

Marine Care Window Cleaner,

Marine Care Chrome Shine,

Marine Care Cabin Furniture Cleaner,

Marine Care Washbasin and Sanitary Cleaner,

Marine Kitchen Degreaser,

Marine Care Mould & Mildew Stain Remover for suitable washable surfaces.

The system is not about using the same product for everything, but about choosing the right cleaning solution for each yacht surface.

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10. The MARINE CARE system

Cleaning a yacht involves coordinating the treatment of different surfaces and different types of soiling. Trying to solve every problem with a single cleaner is inadvisable: hulls, engine rooms, glass, metal, cabins, galleys and wet areas are exposed to different conditions.

The MARINE CARE system aims to provide an appropriate, targeted cleaning solution for every important area of the boat.

The basic principle:

not a stronger cleaner for everything, but a more suitable cleaner for the right surface.

10.1 Marine Care Yacht Cleaner

For general cleaning of exterior yacht surfaces

Marine Care Yacht Cleaner is the system's flagship product. It is primarily intended for general cleaning of hulls, decks and exterior surfaces.

It is recommended for soiling arising from use of the boat, storage in a marina or the aquatic environment.

Typical applications:

hulls,

decks,

areas around the waterline,

exterior plastic and glossy surfaces,

general marina grime,

salt and dust deposits,

lighter surface soiling from algae or biofilm,

sunscreen, hand marks and dirt from use.

Marine Care Yacht Cleaner's role in the system is to provide readily noticeable results on the largest, most visible surfaces.

Pre-rinsing and a test clean are always recommended before use. The cleaner must not be allowed to dry onto the surface, and thorough rinsing with water is required after treatment.

10.2 Marine Care Engine and Engine Room Cleaner

For oily, greasy soiling in technical areas

Cleaning an engine and engine room differs from cleaning a boat's exterior. Oily, greasy, diesel-contaminated and technical soiling is common here and requires more targeted cleaning.

Marine Care Engine and Engine Room Cleaner helps remove greasy and oily deposits from technical spaces and around engines.

Typical applications:

engine rooms,

areas around engines,

oily covers,

greasy technical surfaces,

diesel deposits,

greasier soiling around exhausts.

Controlled working is particularly important when cleaning engine rooms. Attention must be paid to electrical components, connectors, sensitive technical parts and responsible handling of contaminated wash water.

10.3 Marine Care Window Cleaner

For gentle cleaning of glass, Perspex and acrylic surfaces

Transparent surfaces on boats require particular care. Glass, Perspex and acrylic stain easily and may also be scratched by incorrect cleaning.

Marine Care Window Cleaner helps keep these surfaces clean, clear and attractive.

Typical applications:

windows,

windscreens,

Perspex components,

acrylic surfaces,

transparent plastic panels,

interior and exterior glass surfaces.

On these surfaces, it is recommended to use only clean, soft microfibre cloths. Dry wiping, paper towels, coarse cloths and scrubbing over particulate dirt can cause scratches.

A test clean is always mandatory on Perspex and acrylic.

10.4 Marine Care Chrome Shine

For cleaning metal fittings, rails and handholds

Metal parts on a yacht serve both practical and visual purposes. The condition of shiny metal fittings, handholds, rails, hinges and ladders says a great deal about how well the boat is cared for.

Marine Care Chrome Shine provides targeted cleaning of metal surfaces.

Typical applications:

chrome-plated surfaces,

stainless steel fittings,

rails,

handholds,

ladders,

hinges,

metal connectors,

metal parts marked by water or salt.

Avoid scratching tools, wire scourers and aggressive scrubbing on metal surfaces. Drying the surface after cleaning is particularly important because water droplets may leave new marks.

10.5 Marine Care Cabin Furniture Cleaner

For careful cleaning of interior furniture and cabin surfaces

The cabin is the yacht's living space. Cleanliness matters here, but so do feel, sheen and overall appearance.

Marine Care Cabin Furniture Cleaner is intended for gentle cleaning of interior furniture, plastic components, doors, handles and frequently used surfaces.

Typical applications:

cabin furniture,

interior plastic surfaces,

doors,

cupboards,

handles,

tables,

storage units,

general marks from interior use.

A test clean is always required on wood, veneer, varnished or delicate surfaces. Using too much water indoors is not recommended: moisture in enclosed spaces may cause unpleasant odours, staining or conditions conducive to mould growth.

10.6 Marine Care Washbasin and Sanitary Cleaner

For removing limescale and mineral deposits from sanitary and other suitable boat surfaces

Limescale, soap residue, deposits associated with condensation and dirt from use are common in a boat's wet areas. Limescale and mineral deposits can also occur elsewhere: on the boat's sides and on engine and mechanical equipment surfaces made from suitable materials.

Marine Care Washbasin and Sanitary Cleaner is intended for targeted cleaning of washbasins, taps, shower areas and wet rooms, as well as other boat surfaces affected by limescale. It may only be used on acid-resistant, washable surfaces, including suitable hull surfaces and suitable external engine and mechanical surfaces.

Typical applications:

washbasins,

taps,

shower areas and wet spaces,

limescale and mineral deposits on the sides of the boat,

limescale on engine and mechanical equipment surfaces made from suitable materials,

other limescale-affected boat surfaces suitable for the product.

Marine Care Washbasin and Sanitary Cleaner must not be used on marble, limestone, cement-bound surfaces, terrazzo or other acid-sensitive materials. A test clean is required on sensitive, coated or unknown surfaces; a test clean does not override the prohibition on acid-sensitive surfaces. On engine and mechanical surfaces, the product may only be used when the surface has cooled completely. Electrical connectors, exposed electrical parts and sensitive components must be protected from the cleaner and rinse water. Do not allow the product to dry on the surface. After treatment, rinse with plenty of clean water; ventilation is also recommended.

10.7 Marine Kitchen Degreaser

For cleaning galleys and food preparation surfaces

Greasy deposits, food residue, oily fingerprints and cooking-related dirt occur in a boat's galley. They are best treated with a targeted degreaser suited to the galley environment.

Marine Kitchen Degreaser is intended for cleaning galleys.

Typical applications:

galley worktops,

areas around cooking surfaces,

areas around sinks,

greasy tiles or cladding,

food preparation surfaces,

oily fingerprints,

cookware,

cooking-related deposits.

After cleaning surfaces that come into contact with food, wiping with clean water is always required to ensure that no cleaner residue remains.

10.8 Marine Care Mould & Mildew Stain Remover

Targeted cleaning of mould-related staining on suitable yacht surfaces

Marine Care Mould & Mildew Stain Remover is an alkaline cleaner containing active chlorine. It is intended to remove mould-related marks, discolouration and certain organic stains from chlorine-resistant, washable interior and exterior yacht surfaces. This is a cleaning claim, not a biocidal or disinfection claim.

Suitable applications, subject to material compatibility:

Washable, chlorine-resistant interior and exterior surfaces; selected vinyl (PVC) and imitation-leather surfaces only where the manufacturer’s instructions and an inconspicuous test support use.

How to use it safely

Provide good ventilation. Wear protective gloves, protective clothing and eye/face protection. Test on a small, inconspicuous area before treatment; check the material manufacturer’s instructions. Apply only to suitable washable surfaces and follow the product label for contact time. Rinse thoroughly with water before the product begins to dry. Never allow the cleaner to dry onto the surface. Collect and dispose of contaminated liquids responsibly; prevent their release into marina waters.

Important restrictions

Warning! Do not use together with other products. Dangerous gases (chlorine) may be released. Never mix with acids, acidic descalers, ammonia-containing cleaners or any other cleaning products. Coloured textiles may fade or bleach. Avoid aluminium, zinc, tin, certain metals, delicate coatings, varnished or acid/alkali-sensitive surfaces unless compatibility has been established. Do not use on hot surfaces.

This product can cause severe skin burns and eye damage and is very toxic to aquatic life. Refer to the current safety data sheet and label before use. Do not imply prevention of mould recurrence or disinfection.

Product page: /marine/en/marine_care_peneszeltavolito.html (planned address; confirm when published). Web anchor for the interactive guide: product-mould.

10.9 Quick product selector

Area or problem	Recommended MARINE CARE product
Hull, deck and exterior surface dirt	Marine Care Yacht Cleaner
Salt, dust and marina grime	Marine Care Yacht Cleaner
Light algae and biofilm contamination on surfaces	Marine Care Yacht Cleaner
Sunscreen, handprints and general dirt from use	Marine Care Yacht Cleaner
Oil, grease, diesel and engine room dirt	Marine Care Engine and Engine Room Cleaner
Glass, Perspex and acrylic	Marine Care Window Cleaner
Chrome, stainless steel and metal fittings	Marine Care Chrome Shine
Cabin furniture and interior plastic surfaces	Marine Care Cabin Furniture Cleaner
Washbasins, taps, wet areas and other suitable boat surfaces with limescale	Marine Care Washbasin and Sanitary Cleaner
Kitchen grease and food preparation residues	Marine Kitchen Degreaser
Mould-related stains on chlorine-resistant washable surfaces	Marine Care Mould & Mildew Stain Remover — after testing; never mix; rinse before drying

10.10 Benefits of the system

The benefit of the MARINE CARE system is that it does not force the user to rely on a single universal solution. Different parts of a yacht are made of different materials, experience different demands and encounter different types of dirt.

Good yacht care therefore depends on choosing correctly, rather than on a single powerful cleaner.

The MARINE CARE system helps with this:

a cleaner for exterior surfaces on the exterior,

an engine room degreaser in the engine room,

a gentle cleaner for transparent surfaces on glass and Perspex,

a targeted metal cleaner on metal,

a cabin furniture cleaner inside,

a sanitary cleaner in wet areas,

a kitchen degreaser in the kitchen.

This makes cleaning a considered, consistent system rather than a series of hurried experiments.

10.11 The MARINE CARE core message

MARINE CARE is more than a range of cleaning products: it is an approach to yacht care.

The brand's core message:

Cleanliness without excessive effort.
A well-maintained appearance without risky chemical treatment.
A premium cleaning system tailored to yacht surfaces.

The aim is for the yacht to do more than look cleaner: it should convey an overall impression of greater order, care and value.

Mould-related staining is a separate cleaning task: choose Marine Care Mould & Mildew Stain Remover only on suitable chlorine-resistant, washable surfaces; do not substitute the acidic sanitary cleaner.

11. Common types of dirt and their recommended treatment

One of the most important rules in yacht cleaning is that not all dirt is the same. What initially looks like ordinary dirt may be salt deposits, limescale, algae, sunscreen, oil, soot or even metallic discolouration.

The first step in correct cleaning is therefore always identification.

Salt deposits and general marina dirt

Salt and marina dust often form a thin, dull film on surfaces. This is particularly visible on the deck, around railings, on glass and on the upper parts of the hull.

Recommended procedure:

Always rinse the surface with clean water first. This removes loose particles that could scratch it. Marine Care Yacht Cleaner can then be used on exterior surfaces. A soft sponge, microfibre cloth or soft boat brush is recommended to assist cleaning.

Do not allow the cleaner to dry on the surface. Thorough rinsing with water and wiping dry are recommended after treatment.

Algae, green deposits and biofilm

Algae contamination often appears near the waterline, on lower parts of the hull, in corners and gaps, or on surfaces that remain damp.

Recommended procedure:

First remove loose dirt by rinsing and cleaning with a soft brush. Then treat the surface selectively with Marine Care Yacht Cleaner. Thicker deposits may require more patience and gentle mechanical assistance.

Use repeated, controlled cleaning rather than harsh scrubbing.

Yellow or brown discolouration around the waterline

Discolouration around the waterline may be a mixture of contaminants. It may include mineral deposits, organic matter, marina dirt or algae residues.

Recommended procedure:

First carry out a test clean on a small area. Before using Marine Care Yacht Cleaner, rinse the surface, then apply the cleaner evenly. After a short dwell time, assist cleaning with a soft brush or sponge, then rinse thoroughly.

If the discolouration is stubborn, do not try to remove it all immediately by harsh scrubbing. Use repeated treatments instead.

Sunscreen, body lotion and greasy handprints

Sunscreen and body lotion can leave a greasy, sticky layer on the deck, grab handles, around seats, and on plastic and painted surfaces. This contamination often traps dust and may eventually form a grey, patchy layer.

Recommended procedure:

Rinse the surface with water first. Then treat the contaminated area with Marine Care Yacht Cleaner. Wipe with a soft cloth or non-scratch sponge, then rinse thoroughly.

Inside the boat, on kitchen or dining surfaces, Marine Kitchen Degreaser may be more appropriate, provided the surface material permits its use.

Bird droppings

Bird droppings are not merely an aesthetic problem. If left on the surface for a long time, they can cause staining or surface damage, particularly in strong sunlight.

Recommended procedure:

Do not scrape the dirt off when dry. Moisten it first and allow it to loosen briefly. Then remove it with a soft cloth or sponge. Clean the surface with Marine Care Yacht Cleaner, then rinse with plenty of water.

Important: avoid rough scrapers, knives, metal tools and any other implement that could scratch a glossy surface.

Soot, smoke marks and dirt around the exhaust

Soot and smoke-related dirt can appear around exhausts, on motor yachts or in a marina environment. This is often greasy, so washing with water alone does not always remove it.

Recommended procedure:

Rinse the surface first, then treat the contaminated area with Marine Care Yacht Cleaner. If the soot is greasier or oilier, Marine Care Engine and Engine Room Cleaner may be a more targeted solution, particularly around the engine and in technical spaces.

Thorough rinsing is always required after treatment.

Oil, diesel and engine room dirt

Oily, greasy and diesel contamination around the engine and engine room requires separate treatment. It should not be treated as general exterior surface cleaning.

Recommended procedure:

Marine Care Engine and Engine Room Cleaner is more appropriate in technical spaces and engine room areas. Before cleaning, check for sensitive electrical components, open connections or surfaces that must not come into contact with cleaner.

Controlled application, adequate ventilation and responsible handling of contaminated wash water are particularly important when cleaning the engine room.

Glass, Perspex and acrylic surfaces

The risk of scratching is the main concern with glass, Perspex and acrylic surfaces. Gentle cleaning matters more than the strength of the cleaner on these surfaces.

Recommended procedure:

First remove dust, salt and gritty dirt with plenty of water. Then use only a soft, clean microfibre cloth. Marine Care Window Cleaner can be used for this purpose, always following a test clean.

On Perspex and acrylic, avoid strong solvents, coarse cloths, paper towels, dry wiping and vigorous circular rubbing.

Chrome, stainless steel and metal fittings

Water marks, salt residues, greasy handprints and oxidation-related discolouration can appear on metal fittings. Alongside cleaning, the aim is to restore a shiny, well-maintained appearance.

Recommended procedure:

Rinse the surface first, then clean it with a soft cloth. Marine Care Chrome Shine can be used for targeted cleaning of metal fittings. Always finish by wiping dry, as water droplets can leave further marks.

Avoid steel wool and aggressive scrubbing.

Cabin furniture and interior plastic surfaces

Inside, the aim is both cleanliness and a pleasant, well-maintained appearance. Fingerprints, dust, a film caused by condensation, light greasy dirt and marks from use are common in cabins.

Recommended procedure:

Marine Care Cabin Furniture Cleaner is intended for gentle cleaning of interior surfaces. Wipe the surface with a soft cloth. Heavy soaking, excessive water and aggressive cleaners are not recommended.

A test clean is always required on wood, veneer, varnished or sensitive furniture surfaces.

Limescale and mineral deposits on sanitary fittings and other boat surfaces

Limescale, soap residues, deposits caused by condensation and dirt from use can appear in a boat's wet areas. Limescale and mineral deposits can also form on the sides of the boat and on engine and mechanical surfaces made of suitable materials.

Recommended procedure:

Marine Care Washbasin and Sanitary Cleaner can be used to clean washbasins, taps, shower areas and wet rooms, as well as other boat surfaces affected by limescale, but only on acid-resistant, washable surfaces. Check the surface material before use. Do not use on marble, limestone, cement-bound surfaces, terrazzo or other acid-sensitive materials. A test clean is required on sensitive, coated or unknown surfaces. Only use on external engine and mechanical surfaces that have cooled completely, and protect electrical connectors, exposed electrical parts and sensitive components from the cleaner and rinse water. Do not allow the product to dry on the surface.

After treatment, always rinse with plenty of clean water; adequate ventilation is also recommended in enclosed wet rooms or engine rooms.

Kitchen grease and dirt from food preparation

Greasy deposits, food residues, fingerprints and oily marks are common in boat kitchens.

Recommended procedure:

Marine Kitchen Degreaser is intended for targeted cleaning of kitchen surfaces. After cleaning, always wipe the surface with a clean, damp cloth, then dry it if necessary.

It is particularly important that no cleaner residue remains on food-contact surfaces.

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12. Quick decision table

Type of dirt	Typical location	Initial cleaning approach
Salt, dust and general marina dirt	hull, deck and railings	pre-rinse + Marine Care Yacht Cleaner
Algae and green deposits	waterline and damp areas	rinse + soft brush + Marine Care Yacht Cleaner

Type of dirt	Typical location	Initial cleaning approach
Yellow waterline staining	lower parts of the hull	test clean + Marine Care Yacht Cleaner
Sunscreen and greasy handprints	deck, grab handles and seating areas	Marine Care Yacht Cleaner, or Marine Kitchen Degreaser indoors
Bird droppings	deck, around covers and hull	soak to loosen + gentle wiping + Marine Care Yacht Cleaner
Soot and smoke marks	around the exhaust	Marine Care Yacht Cleaner, or Marine Care Engine and Engine Room Cleaner for greasier dirt
Oil, diesel and engine room dirt	engine room and around the engine	Marine Care Engine and Engine Room Cleaner
Glass, Perspex and acrylic	windows, windscreens and openings	Marine Care Window Cleaner + soft microfibre cloth
Water marks and salt stains on metal	railings, grab handles and fittings	Marine Care Chrome Shine
Interior dirt from use	cabin, furniture and plastic components	Marine Care Cabin Furniture Cleaner
Limescale, mineral deposits and soap residues	washbasins, wet areas, hull sides and other suitable boat surfaces	Marine Care Washbasin and Sanitary Cleaner
Kitchen grease	worktops and around cooking areas	Marine Kitchen Degreaser
Mould-related staining	damp corners, suitable washable vinyl or interior surfaces	check material compatibility; Marine Care Mould & Mildew Stain Remover; thorough rinse, no mixing

When mould-related staining is present on a confirmed chlorine-resistant, washable surface, consider Marine Care Mould & Mildew Stain Remover with ventilation, material testing, full rinsing and strict separation from other cleaning products.

13. Seasonal yacht care checklist

Cleaning a yacht is not a one-off task. The condition of its surfaces depends on how often the boat is used, whether it operates in freshwater or seawater, whether it is berthed in a covered or open marina, and how much sunlight, salt, moisture and dirt it is exposed to.

The MARINE CARE approach divides good yacht care into three periods:

pre-season preparation,
maintenance cleaning during the season,
and thorough end-of-season cleaning.

These three steps help keep the yacht not only clean, but also well maintained, orderly and in a condition that preserves its value over the longer term.

13.1 Pre-season preparation

The aim of pre-season cleaning is to have the boat clean, checked and visually presentable at the start of the period of use.

A quick wash is not enough at this stage. It is worth checking the boat surface by surface and treating exterior, interior, engine room, metal, glass and sanitary areas separately.

Exterior surfaces

Check the hull, deck, waterline area and corners that often collect dirt.

Recommended steps:

1. Pre-rinse with plenty of water.
2. Remove loose dust, salt, sand and surface dirt.
3. Carry out a test clean in an inconspicuous area.
4. Use Marine Care Yacht Cleaner on exterior surfaces.
5. Wipe with a soft brush or microfibre cloth.
6. Rinse thoroughly with water.
7. Wipe dry and inspect visually.

Pay particular attention to:

the waterline area,

deck walking surfaces,

areas around grab handles,

areas marked by sunscreen, handprints or shoe marks,

corners, gaps and areas around drains.

Metal fittings

At the start of the season, railings, grab handles, hinges, ladders, screw heads and other metal parts must also be checked.

Recommended steps:

1. Remove the layer of salt and dust with clean water.
2. Wipe with a soft cloth.
3. Use Marine Care Chrome Shine.
4. Wipe dry.
5. Check for stains, oxidation marks and water marks.

Avoid:

steel wool,

coarse scouring powder,

harsh scraping,

unfamiliar acidic or alkaline household cleaners.

Glass, Perspex and acrylic

Before the season, glass and transparent plastic surfaces must be cleaned particularly carefully, as scratches can later be very distracting in bright light.

Recommended steps:

1. Rinse with plenty of water.
2. Remove gritty dirt without rubbing.
3. Use a soft, clean microfibre cloth.
4. Apply Marine Care Window Cleaner.
5. Wipe with a dry, clean cloth.

A test clean is always particularly important on Perspex and acrylic surfaces.

Interior and cabin

The aim inside is a fresh, orderly and pleasant condition for use. Moisture, dust, stale air and fingerprints can considerably detract from the overall appearance.

Recommended steps:

1. Ventilate.
2. Remove dust with a soft cloth.
3. Wipe furniture surfaces with Marine Care Cabin Furniture Cleaner.
4. Clean interior plastic components.
5. Check cupboards, storage spaces, doors and handles.
6. Wipe dry.

Always carry out a test on wood, veneer, varnished or sensitive interior surfaces.

Kitchen and sanitary areas

Before the season, the boat's kitchen and wet areas must be treated separately, as they quickly become dirty again during use.

Recommended kitchen steps:

1. Check worktops and cooking surfaces.
2. Clean greasy deposits with Marine Kitchen Degreaser.
3. Wipe food-contact surfaces with clean water.
4. Wipe dry.

Recommended sanitary cleaning steps:

1. Check washbasins, taps and shower areas.
2. Remove limescale and soap residue with Marine Care Washbasin and Sanitary Cleaner, only on acid-resistant, washable surfaces and in accordance with the usage and safety conditions in section 10.6.
3. Rinse with plenty of water.
4. Ventilate.
5. Wipe dry.

Engine and engine room

The engine room is one of the yacht's most important areas, although it is often overlooked. Appearance is not the only aim here: clear visibility, safety and easier detection of leaks also matter.

Recommended steps:

1. Visually inspect the area around the engine.
2. Identify oily and greasy dirt.
3. Protect sensitive electrical parts.
4. Use Marine Care Engine and Engine Room Cleaner selectively.
5. Wipe in a controlled manner.
6. Handle contaminated wash water responsibly.
7. Ventilate.

Never rush work in the engine room, and do not use excessive water or cleaner without control.

13.2 Maintenance cleaning during the season

Cleaning during the season is not always about a thorough deep clean, but about regular maintenance. Frequent, gentle cleaning is much better than occasional aggressive treatment.

After use, it is particularly recommended to:

rinse off salt and dust,

remove sunscreen and greasy handprints,

treat bird droppings promptly,

wipe glass and Perspex,

wipe metal fittings dry,

clean kitchen and sanitary areas hygienically.

Quick deck routine after use

1. Rinse the deck and grab handles.
2. Clean more heavily soiled areas selectively with Marine Care Yacht Cleaner.
3. Wipe with a soft cloth or brush.
4. Rinse thoroughly.
5. Wipe metal parts dry.
6. Clean glass and Perspex with a separate cloth.

These few steps do much to prevent layers of dirt building up on one another.

What should be treated immediately?

Some types of dirt should not be left on the surface for days.

Immediate treatment is required for:

bird droppings,

sunscreen stains,

oil or diesel contamination,

heavy soot marks,

seawater drying on surfaces,

food or drink stains,

damp interior surfaces prone to mould.

If mould-related stains are present, identify the substrate and check whether targeted active-chlorine cleaning is compatible.

The longer dirt remains on a surface, the more likely it is to become stubborn.

On suitable washable interior areas, check mould-related stains separately. Use Marine Care Mould & Mildew Stain Remover only where compatible; ventilate, prevent drying, rinse thoroughly and keep wash water out of natural waters.

13.3 End-of-season cleaning

The aim of end-of-season cleaning is to ensure the boat is not put into storage dirty, salty, greasy or damp. This is particularly important before winter lay-up, covered storage or an extended period out of use.

Final exterior cleaning

Recommended steps:

1. Pre-rinse the entire exterior.
2. Clean the hull and deck with Marine Care Yacht Cleaner.
3. Check the waterline area separately.
4. Treat algae and green or yellow discolouration selectively.
5. Clean metal fittings and wipe them dry.
6. Clean glass, Perspex and acrylic surfaces gently.
7. Check that everything is completely dry.

Final interior cleaning

Inside, preventive attention to moisture, odours and areas prone to mould is particularly important.

Recommended steps:

1. Ventilate thoroughly.
2. Wipe cabin furniture and interior plastic surfaces.
3. Degrease kitchen surfaces.
4. Clean sanitary fittings.
5. Remove or dry damp textiles, sponges and cloths.
6. Check storage spaces, corners and enclosed compartments.
7. Close up the boat in a clean, dry condition.

Final engine room check

At the end of the season, cleaning the engine room is an inspection task as well as a cleaning task.

Recommended steps:

1. Look for oily or greasy marks.
2. Clean the area around the engine selectively.
3. Check for new stains indicating leaks.
4. Wipe contaminated surfaces.
5. Ventilate.
6. Ensure a clean, clearly visible condition for the next season.

Inspect chlorine-resistant washable areas for mould-related staining and treat only with full precautions if necessary.

13.4 Brief seasonal summary

Before the season

Clean the entire exterior.
Freshen up the interior.
Check metal, glass and Perspex.
Clean kitchen and sanitary areas.
Inspect the engine room.
Carry out a test clean on every delicate surface.

During the season

Rinse regularly.
Remove salt, sunscreen, bird droppings and handprints promptly.
Use soft tools.
Do not allow cleaner to dry on surfaces.
Wipe metal and glass surfaces dry.

After the season

Carry out thorough end-of-season cleaning.
Wipe dry.
Ventilate the interior.
Check areas prone to mould.

Clean the engine room.
Store in a clean, dry condition.

13.5 MARINE CARE quick checklist for boat owners

The most important rules on one page:

Always rinse first.

Always carry out a test clean.

Do not work in direct, strong sunlight.

Do not allow the cleaner to dry on the surface.

Do not use a coarse scourer.

Use only a soft, clean cloth on Perspex and acrylic.

Avoid scratching tools on metal.

Work in a controlled manner in the engine room.

Always finish food-contact surfaces by wiping with clean water.

Regular gentle cleaning is better than occasional aggressive treatment.

Special chlorine-cleaner check: when using Marine Care Mould & Mildew Stain Remover, wear appropriate protective equipment, ventilate the area, never mix with other cleaners and prevent runoff into marina waters. It must not be left to dry.

14. Safety, test cleaning and responsible use

In yacht care, surface safety is just as important as cleanliness. Many different materials come together on a boat: glossy gelcoat, painted surfaces, plastic, Perspex, acrylic, chrome, stainless steel, rubber, wood, sealant, textiles and various specialist coatings.

Cleaning therefore involves more than asking whether the dirt can be removed: we must also consider whether the surface will retain its original condition in the process.

The guiding principle of the MARINE CARE system:

cleaning should be effective, but always controlled and gentle on surfaces.

14.1 Test cleaning is not a formality

A test clean must be carried out on every new, unfamiliar or sensitive surface.

The purpose of a test clean is to see how the material responds to the cleaner, dwell time and mechanical wiping before treating the whole surface.

Test cleaning is particularly important on:

gelcoat surfaces,

older hulls or hulls that have lost their gloss,

painted surfaces,

Perspex and acrylic,

chrome-plated or polished metal,

rubber seals,

varnished or veneered interior furniture,

teak or other wooden surfaces,

unfamiliar coatings,

previously repaired, polished or treated surfaces.

Always carry out a test clean on a small, inconspicuous area. Proceeding to a larger area is recommended only if the test result is satisfactory.

14.2 Do not work in direct, strong sunlight

Most yachts are kept in environments exposed to strong sunlight. This matters particularly during cleaning.

In direct, strong sunlight or on a hot surface, cleaner may evaporate more quickly, dry on the surface, leave stains or produce an uneven effect.

Recommended working conditions:

a shaded surface,

a cooler time of day,

a hull that is not excessively hot,

working in sections,

continuous supervision,

prompt, thorough rinsing.

The aim is to let the cleaner work for as long as necessary, but never allow it to dry on the surface.

14.3 Do not allow cleaner to dry on the surface

This is one of the most important rules of yacht care.

The cleaner's role is to loosen dirt and make it removable. The aim is not to leave it on the surface for a long time without supervision.

If cleaner dries on the surface, it may:

leave stains,

produce uneven cleaning results,

be harder to rinse off,

leave unwanted marks on sensitive surfaces,

make the final appearance less attractive.

Always work in smaller sections. Monitor the treated area, re-wet it if necessary, then rinse thoroughly after the appropriate dwell time.

14.4 Always rinse thoroughly

Cleaning does not end when the dirt has been loosened. Cleaner residues and loosened dirt must also be removed from the surface.

Thorough rinsing matters because it:

removes cleaner residues,

removes dissolved dirt,

reduces the risk of staining,

gives a more even surface appearance,

helps achieve a safer result on sensitive surfaces.

Rinsing is particularly important on:

gelcoat and glossy exterior surfaces,

metal fittings,

areas around glass and Perspex,

deck walking surfaces,

kitchen and sanitary surfaces,

areas where human skin or food may come into contact with the surface.

14.5 Avoid harsh mechanical cleaning

A common mistake in yacht cleaning is to try to deal with stubborn dirt by rubbing harder. In many cases, this is not the right approach.

Harsh rubbing may:

scratch glossy surfaces,

dull gelcoat,

damage Perspex or acrylic,

leave marks on metals,

damage varnished or painted surfaces,

produce uneven cleaning results.

Tools not recommended on sensitive surfaces:

steel wool,

coarse scouring pads,

hard scrapers,

knives or blades,

rigid plastic scrapers without prior testing,

gritty scouring powder,

dirty, sandy cloths.

The correct solution is not harder rubbing, but a combination of the right cleaner, the right dwell time and suitably soft tools.

14.6 Particularly sensitive surfaces

Some yacht surfaces require extra care.

Perspex and acrylic

The main risks on Perspex and acrylic are scratching and clouding. Only clean, soft microfibre cloths are recommended on these surfaces.

Avoid:

dry wiping,

paper towels,

coarse cloths,

solvent cleaning without prior testing,

vigorous rubbing,

wiping over gritty dirt.

Chrome and polished metal

Scratching, staining and water marks can be a problem on chrome and polished metal surfaces. Wiping the surface dry after cleaning is always recommended.

Avoid:

steel wool,

aggressive scouring products,

harsh scraping,

using acidic or alkaline products without prior testing.

Wood, teak, veneer and varnished surfaces

Wood-based surfaces may be sensitive to moisture, strong cleaners and prolonged soaking.

Avoid:

excessive water,

prolonged soaking,

strong degreasing without prior testing,

coarse brushes,

unsupervised dwell time.

Rubber and seals

Rubber and sealing materials may age, discolour or react sensitively to certain cleaners.

Avoid:

strong solvents,

long dwell times,

harsh rubbing,

unnecessary soaking of seals.

14.7 Do not mix cleaning products

Mixing different cleaners can be dangerous and unpredictable. It is not recommended even if the user believes it will produce a “stronger effect”.

Risks of mixing:

unwanted chemical reactions,

gas formation,

surface damage,

staining,

risk of accidents,

warranty or liability issues.

Always choose one cleaning approach. After thorough rinsing, continue with another treatment in a separate step if necessary.

For the active-chlorine Mould & Mildew Stain Remover, the warning is mandatory: “Warning! Do not use together with other products. Dangerous gases (chlorine) may be released.” Avoid acids and ammonia-containing products in particular.

14.8 Protective equipment and work hygiene

Users must also pay attention to their own safety while cleaning.

Recommended:

wearing protective gloves,

eye protection where splashing is possible,

good ventilation indoors,

washing hands after work,

storage out of reach of children and animals,

storage in the original packaging,

use in accordance with the label and safety data sheet.

In interiors, engine rooms or poorly ventilated areas, it is particularly important not to clean in an enclosed, unventilated environment.

14.9 Environmental responsibility

Yacht care takes place beside water, so environmental responsibility is particularly important during cleaning.

When cleaning, efforts must be made to prevent cleaner and contaminated wash water from entering natural waters in an uncontrolled manner.

This is particularly important for:

oily contamination in engine rooms,

diesel deposits,

heavily greasy surfaces,

thick algae or muddy deposits,

marina maintenance areas,

enclosed or sensitive bodies of water.

Responsible yacht care includes adapting the cleaning location and method to marina requirements, local rules and environmental conditions.

14.10 Important precautions for use at sea

Marine and brackish-water environments are particularly complex. Salt, calcium deposits, algae and contamination such as shells from molluscs may behave differently.

A documented test clean is therefore recommended in every new environment. Actual experience in marinas and boat operation is particularly important, because in the premium yacht care market, credible claims must be supported by practical evidence.

In the MARINE CARE approach, responsible communication is as much a part of quality as cleaning performance itself.

14.11 When should cleaning not begin?

In some situations, it is better to stop and first identify the surface or the dirt more precisely.

Do not begin cleaning a large area if:

the material is unknown,

the previous coating is unknown,

the surface is cracked, flaking or damaged,

the hull is very hot,

thorough rinsing is not possible,

there is a high risk of the cleaner drying on the surface,

no test clean has been carried out,

the origin of the dirt is uncertain,

the surface is particularly valuable or sensitive.

In such cases, a small test, professional consultation or a more cautious cleaning approach is recommended first.

14.12 The essence of responsible MARINE CARE use

The MARINE CARE system supports effective, premium yacht care, but good results require the correct working method as well as the product.

The most important rules:

rinse first,

then carry out a test clean,

always use the right product on the right surface,

work in smaller sections,

do not allow cleaner to dry on the surface,

use soft, clean tools,

rinse thoroughly after treatment,

always take care on sensitive surfaces,

do not mix cleaning products,

follow the requirements on the label and safety data sheet.

Good yacht care is not about rushing or excessive effort.

Good yacht care means attention, the right sequence and controlled cleaning.

Mould-related stains require a separate, material-compatible cleaning approach. Marine Care Mould & Mildew Stain Remover is part of the eight-product range, with stricter handling precautions than routine yacht cleaning.

Closing brand message

MARINE CARE – caring for every surface of your yacht

Yacht care is successful when the result is impressive and surface safety is preserved throughout the process. Cleaning must not be harsh, random or unsuitable for the surface. Too many

different materials and types of dirt come together on a boat for the same answer to be right for everything.

The essence of the MARINE CARE system is therefore informed choice.

Different cleaning solutions are appropriate for the hull, the engine room, glass and Perspex, chrome, the cabin, the kitchen and wet areas.

This approach makes yacht care simpler and safer rather than more complicated.

MARINE CARE aims to make boat cleaning a well-structured system rather than a struggle:

- **the right product,**
- **the right surface,**
- **the right tools,**
- **the right sequence.**

Regular, gentle cleaning means less intervention, less rubbing and a more orderly surface condition over the longer term. The yacht thus looks better not only during use, but also before storage, a change of season or sale.

MARINE CARE is more than a range of cleaning products.

MARINE CARE is an approach to yacht care.

An approach that brings together cleanliness, surface care, a premium appearance and responsible use.

Because a yacht is more than a means of transport.

A yacht is an experience, an asset and a collection of surfaces that need care.

MARINE CARE
Premium cleaning. Informed yacht care.