

Sail Care

To keep your sail looking and performing like it new, proper storage is a must.

Inspect your sail and make any necessary repairs before storing it. Clean the sail and make sure it is thoroughly dry. Remove the battens and start folding the sail like an accordion from the foot to the head. Avoid using the same fold lines time after time to prevent permanent creases in the sail. Once folded, start folding from the clew so the sail tack and identification end up on top for easy access. Place the sails in protective bags and do not store in excessive heat like the trunk of a car or in places where mice might get at them.

To clean your sail, use fresh water only. If necessary use a mild detergent solution with a soft bristle brush. Rinse and dry completely before storing.

For partial removal of tough stains such as rust, try soaking the affected area with a 5% solution of oxalic acid dissolved in hot water. Then treat the area with a 2% solution of hydrochloric acid in warm water. Finally rinse the area thoroughly with fresh water. Remember to wear protective gloves and eyewear when working with acids. For mildew soak the area in a 1% solution of household bleach and cold water. Rinse area thoroughly and allow to dry. Again, use protective gloves and eyewear.

To get the most out of your sails protect them from the sun. Consider adding a sacrificial fabric to the leech and the foot of roller-furled sails or use a jib sock. Remember to loosely flake the main sail and ease the outhaul.