Pink Stain and Morbern Vinyl Coated Fabrics

Morbern

Pink stain is not actually mildew. Rather it is a by-product of a specific type of bacterial micro-organism. The micro-organism produces a digestive by-product, a dye, which is soluble in plasticizer (a primary ingredient in vinyl coated fabrics) and will stain any vinyl coated fabric it comes in contact with. Therefore, even a vinyl coated fabric that is properly protected with an anti-bacterial agent will stain if the vinyl coated fabric comes in contact with the pink bacteria by-product.

It follows then that in marine applications, care should be taken in the construction of vinyl coated fabric covers to prevent bacterial and mildew growth. In order for bacteria and mildew to grow, moisture or water vapor is needed. Thus, seams should be water tight, if possible. Seats should be constructed so that the foam cushions do not become saturated with water and will dry out quickly if they do get wet. Foam cushions, padding, wood frames and other components should be formulated or treated with an efficient anti-microbial agent. If bacteria growth proliferates on wet and untreated substructure components, the pink stain by-product will gradually work its way to the surface and stain the vinyl coated fabric, even if the vinyl is well-protected against bacteria and mildew. Once constructed, all vinyl coated fabric covers should receive "frequent and proper cleaning" with special attention given to crevices where dirt and water can be trapped.

All Morbern marine quality vinyl coated fabrics contain proven anti-fungal/anti-bacterial agents; in sufficient amounts to provide years of mildew free use. However, the best protection against pink stain is to construct marine and outdoor seating and trim pieces in such a way as to reduce moisture and dirt retention, and to incorporate components that have been properly formulated and/or treated with an efficient anti-microbial agent.