

RENOVO CANVAS CLEANER £13.25 SEALER £13.25

Sprayhoods – they can either make or mar your boat. A really smart sprayhood, sail cover and dodger combo can really finish off your boat, while a decaying, algae riddled combo can finish your boat off in a different manner.

Replacing them comes at quite a price too, so the best answer is care and attention, however this is not always possible, as in the case of our Art Editor Stewart Wheeler, who inherited a particularly green sprayhood when he recently purchased a Westery Centaur. This would have been fine, except it was actually meant to be blue.

The answer? Well, Stewart decided to try to restore the sprayhood and sail cover using Renovo reviver. This bio degradable cleaning product was originally developed to restore convertible car hoods, but it was soon evident that it would work just as well on canvas yacht sprayhoods and dodgers.

According to the manufacturers, you'll need about 500ml for a sprayhood of the Centaur size. In terms of preparation, all you need to do is ensure that the sprayhood is a bit damp by lightly spraying it with water.

The next step is to paint the reviver on, then disappear for a cup of tea and a bacon sandwich for an hour or so while it dries. It pays to keep the cover on its frame, because this keeps it stretched tight and means you don't miss out on any creases etc. The same does not apply to the sail cover where this will have disastrous consequences for your sail. The manufacturer recommends not doing it in direct sunlight, but the chances of a dry, non-sunny day seem a



A very sorry state of affairs.



Simply paint it on...



... and then gently scrub off.



bit specific, so perhaps don't do it in the heat of the midday sun.

Once dried, you simply scrub it off with warm water and then wait for it to dry to see the final results. Care must also be taken when working around any acrylic windows in the sprayhood, because scrubbing will tend to mark the acrylic. Renovo does have a window reviver on sale as well and details are available on the website. In this instance, it wasn't needed. Renovo also supplies a Reviver dye, but the cleaner was so effective we didn't need it on this occasion.

Did it work? Well, yes it did, but there was some mould that was so ingrained in this particularly ancient sprayhood that it was clear nothing was ever going to get it out. Nevertheless, Stewart is delighted with the result, which, as you can see from the pictures, has noticeably improved the overall look of both the sprayhood and sail cover. All this came at a fraction of the price of a new sprayhood and sail cover.

The final step, which is vital if you want to preserve your handiwork, is to seal it all with Renovo ultra proofer, which restores the waterproof seal and should keep it mould free for a good few years to come. Again, this is a simple matter of painting on and allowing a couple of hours to dry. Job done! SJ

WE LIKE

- Cheap compared to getting a new cover made.
- Simple to apply.

WE DON'T LIKE

- Didn't quite get rid of all the really old mould.

VERDICT ★★★★★

OK, it didn't remove every last speck of mould, but it had its work cut out. The pictures of the results speak for themselves.

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