

CLEANING STICKY ROYALEX HULLS

Occasionally, Mad River gets inquiries from customers reporting sticky hull surfaces on their Royalex hulls. The tackiness resists cleaning with conventional cleaners. It has been determined that this condition is the result of the presence of an environmental fungus that is airborne and has an affinity for vinyl.

The following procedure will eliminate the fungus and prevent the reoccurrence of sticky hull surfaces.

MATERIALS REQUIRED

1 pint Xylene enamel paint thinner (available at most paint or hardware stores)
Vinyl gloves (do not use rubber gloves – Xylene will dissolve rubber)
Clean rags
Cleanser
303 Protectant

NOTE: Xylene is a very strong solvent and must be used with protective gloves and if used indoors must be used in an area with an aggressive ventilation system. It is recommended that a NIOSH approved respirator be used for maximum protection. Carefully read information on can provided by the manufacturer and abide by all recommended precautions. Dispose of all contaminated materials as instructed.

PROCEDURE

- 1) Clean hull with soap and water thoroughly and wipe dry.
- 2) Position hull so that accidental contact with gunwales or other components will be minimized and have clean dry rag at hand to wipe up any contacted areas.
- 3) Apply Xylene to clean rag and wipe down hull starting at one end and working towards the other.
- 4) As soon as you reach other end of canoe, use dry rag and return to starting point and wipe off solvent. Do not let solvent sit on hull surface as it will begin to soften vinyl skin.
- 5) Once all solvent is removed apply 303 Protectant to hull surface.
- 6) Periodic treatment of hull with 303 seems to help prevent re-infestation.