

FIGHTING STAINS AND MICROBIAL GROWTH

Experts in textile protection are launching a revolutionary product that aims to reduce the vast quantities of time and money spent on ensuring that cruiseships are kept in immaculate condition.

On board ships, cruise passengers expect seating, carpets, curtains and similar materials to be spotless. The application of Fiber ProTector treatment can help the cruise operator maintaining high standards by enabling housekeeping staff on board to remove organic stains more quickly and easily; areas that require cleaning are rarely out of commission for long during cruise operations. One of the company's most high-profile contracts to date is the protection of all the carpet and upholstery on ResidenSea's *The World*. This unique service can contribute to the overall aesthetics and health while reducing costs.

Product characteristics

The Fiber ProTector treatment is based on fluorinated acrylic copolymers, which have the lowest friction of any known material. They are able to coat each fibre protecting against organic fluids, dust or other debris that on unprotected textiles would result in permanent stains. The protection also helps guard against fading through UV radiation and can significantly reduce static build-up.

The treatment does not change the colour, feel or breathability of the fabrics or carpets. It is proven to improve indoor environment and contains no VOC compounds. The lifetime of each treatment depends on whether it is a high-traffic or low-traffic area.

Cleaning process

The treatment service includes application by specially trained Fiber ProTector personnel using special applicators designed for carpets and fabrics. The process of treating a large cruiseship from top to bottom would normally require around ten staff and 14 days of hard work. Typical treatment for a cruiseship would mean application to all soft furnishings and carpets in passenger cabins and public areas. All kinds of fabrics are suitable for treatment, from the finest silk to wool and man-made fabrics. The treatment improves wear resistance and allows the use of more delicate and



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light-coloured fabrics for interior decoration in areas where previously they would not have lasted long. The use of this protective system can cut maintenance and refurbishing costs substantially in the long term.

While the treatment cannot stop spillage onto carpets or upholstered furniture, it can provide easy stain and dirt removal, making maintenance much easier. A professional deep cleaning and new treatment is recommended for high-traffic areas every other year.

Fighting germs and mould

Fiber ProTector also offers an antimicrobial option, which can act continuously to aid in keeping carpets and seating fabric clean and free from incubation of pathogenic bacteria, mould and fungi. This component of the system was introduced due to increasing threats from diseases such as the Norwalk virus, legionnaires' disease and MRSA. Such infections can be devastating for the passengers and potentially costly for business. The use of antimicrobial inhibitors aids the cruise line in providing the cleanest, safest environment for the passenger while on board the ship. The antimicrobial compounds used are ultra safe with the same chemical hazard as distilled water.

Fiber ProTector works with another company, Global Marine Care, to offer a total solution for sanitation, including potable water, air, hard and soft surfaces.

Spring cleaning

Fiber ProTector is constantly working to improve performance and find new application media for products such as teak decking. Currently, the company is testing a newly developed pH neutral carpet and fabric cleaner containing a quantity of Fiber ProTector treatment. This will ensure that every time a carpet or fabric is cleaned, some added protection is left behind. The new product is expected to be on the market by spring 2006, and should be thought of as preventative maintenance, similar to taking out a small insurance policy on the interior of the ship. ●

Company profile

Fiber ProTector Norge Ltd was established in Norway in 1995 and is a specialist in textile protection for cruiseships, airplanes and corporate offices. For more information, visit: www.fiberprotector.com