Cockpit Coaming Pads

NECPA EXPO
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Coaming pads come in all shapes, designs and sizes...
With all types of fabrics and foams...
And all types of attachment systems
Questions to ask before starting any project:

- Will you be copying an old coaming pad or starting fresh with a new pattern?
- Will you be using the old foam inside or creating a new shape with new foam?
- What type of foam is best for your application?
- Is the old attachment system still working or does it need to be revised?
- Does the cushion need special drainage?
- Do you need to customize the pads with insets or embroidery?
Types of attachment systems...

- Tracking with boat rope/Kedar welt
- Hinge systems
- Holes and Clips
- Clips
- Thru Bolts and Fasteners
- Thru Bolts with T nuts
- Christmas Tree Clips
- Screws
- Snaps
Fabrics Commonly Used…

- Vinyl
- Channelled Vinyl
- Acrylies
- Welting trim on edges (optional)
- Mesh fabrics for bottoms for drainage
Foams

- High Density for most support
- Low Moisture Absorption Recommended
- Drain Dry or EZ Dry provide a lighter weight and the water passes right through.
- Other foams: Packing, Black/Grey foam

*Note—if the old foam has turned green, is mildewing, pilling or still soaking wet…it should be replaced!
Construction Suggestions

- Backing Boards should be synthetic—PVC or Starboard
- Stainless Staples should always be used
- Stainless T Nuts and Stainless bolts and washers only!
- Remember Drainage – insert a grommet or breather in bottoms if needed to allow the water to pass out, or use a mesh fabric on the bottom panel.
- With special curves and cutouts, you may have to do a fitting on the boat before the final fit to check the curves.
Details

- Coaming pads and cockpit upholstery can get quite detailed...with piping, insets, stripes, and embroidery...
Copying an old skin for a new pad...

- Make sure that you have marked all seams before cutting the skin apart!
- Take apart the skin and allow to lay our flat before cutting.
- Make sure that the channeled vinyl is stretched as it would be on the cushion under tension when cutting.
- Cut out the new piece remembering to add seam allowance and notes for sewing.
- Sew together and apply to the foam or backing as was before.
Making a coaming completely new…

- Go to the boat and pattern where the new coaming bolster will be.
- Make a note on the attachment system so that they will line up with the new coaming pad when installed.
- Make notations on the boat and to the pattern if you are installing a new attachment system so both have the same notations. You may need to do a second fitting test fit your backing to the boat before covering it especially if you are installing the bolt and screw method.
- Cut your foam, and create your new skin…