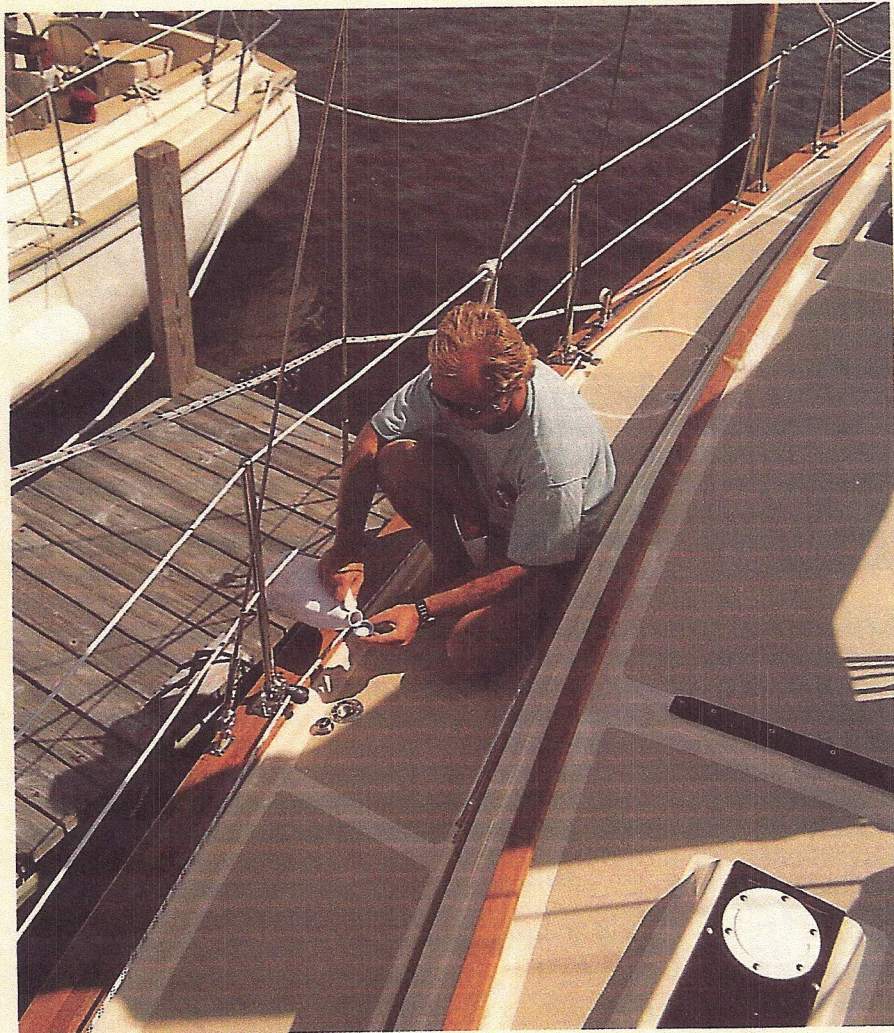


Clean water and fresh vegetables

Mary Trimble recommends using household chlorine bleach as the solution to both algae and wilting



R.H.Eckhardt

Stowage space on a boat is usually limited, particularly when you are outfitting for a long cruise. We first learned about the value of liquid chlorine bleach when my husband, Bruce, and I were Peace Corps volunteers in Africa. Our appreciation for this inexpensive and versatile product grew when we started cruising the South Pacific aboard our Bristol 40, *Impunity*, where we found it has many uses. For such diverse chores as water purification, disinfecting and cleaning, mold and mildew removal, fruit and vegetable treat-

Keeping things clean when cruising is very important. Liquid chlorine bleach can do much of this chore, and more

ment, and laundry, we find this item hard to beat.

First, let me be clear that I'm talking about Clorox and similar products, which you can find in a grocery store. It contains the active ingredient sodium hypochlorite in a concentration of 5.25 percent. We use only unscented bleach.

When you use chlorine bleach, always do so in a well-ventilated area. Never mix chlorine bleach

with any other cleaning supplies, and never use it with ammonia, acids, or even vinegar.

Is there any environmental impact when you use chlorine bleach? It's true that chlorine in large doses can kill sea life. However, when I checked with an EPA ecologist, I was told that the minute amounts of chlorine bleach I use are easily dissipated into the sea and become diluted immediately.

Water purification. One of our most important uses for liquid chlorine bleach is as a water purifier. Chlorine is, of course, used for large water-purification systems, but you can get the same safe results with smaller systems, such as those on a boat.

Filling your boat's water tanks with clean, pure water is a good first step, but algae is likely to grow unless you take preventive measures. Adding one teaspoon of chlorine bleach (unscented only) for every 10 gallons of water in the tank will prevent the growth of algae. The water will have a very slight chlorine odor. When you are adding the bleach, you may find that an eyedropper with a graduated measure is easier to use on a moving boat than a teaspoon.

Because it thrives in light, algae is especially happy growing in clear vinyl plumbing. Impure water from these connections can taint an otherwise clean water supply, so make sure that purified water gets pumped through all your water system's hoses and other plumbing connections.

Our cockpit awning was designed to catch rainwater and is a wonderful source of good, clean water. But algae grows even in rainwater, so we always add liquid chlorine bleach to the jerry cans or our rainwater tanks to make sure we keep that water pure and free of algae.

If you're uncertain about the qual-

