



Inflate Structures

Guidance Notes on
Cleaning and Repairs

01 Cleaning the Structures – On Site

Subject to the site conditions the structures can be cleaned in a number of ways on site with a range of products from 'triple gel' to high power jet wash. In most cases the on site cleaning would only be required for small amounts of dirt picked up during the installation. This can be undertaken with the triple gel, water and micro fibre cloth or sponge. Use white scouring sponge or white bristled scrubbing brush for stubborn marks. Coloured cloths/sponges may leave dye marks.

For larger on site cleaning requirements high pressure steam cleaning and triple gel may be required. If using high pressure jet wash do not have nozzle nearer than 300mm. Steam is safe to use with the structures. Inflate can provide technicians to come on site to steam clean the structures if mains water is available within 20m of the location.

Types of dirt and solution

Mud and other organic dirt

– can be cleaned with water and triple gel – or general cleaning products – pressure washer – or wet vac.

Oil / tar / grease

– will require Starclean or triple gel for cleaning.

Marker pen (graffiti) or dyes

– these can be hard to clean from the nylon fabric – the PVC can be cleaned depending on permanence of marker pen, in both cases make small test first, if unsuccessful the panel may have to be replaced.

Mould and Mildew

– Household Bleach diluted 50-1 or Domestos Pro Clean –www.twenga.co.uk/dir-Supplies, Household-cleaning-products, Bleach-10154.

Rust

– Chewing Gum remover!

– Clean rubber gloves should be worn by all cleaning staff.

– Clean over-shoes or clean Wellington boots should be worn by all cleaning staff.

02 Cleaning the Structures – Off Site

Off site cleaning can be undertaken with Inflate at their own site in Norfolk or can be handled by a recommended third party direct. Off site cleaning offers all the above techniques as well as dip cleaning and industrial washing for structures up to 40kg, such as the OIAB and Luna structures.

Dip Cleaning Instructions for smaller structures to 250kg

Dip cleaning is mainly used where a structure requires a complete cleaning including the inside for mould. This should not be a common requirement if the guidance notes have been followed. Older structures or long term stored structures may require this service from time to time.

- Dip cleaning requires a tank big enough to hold your completely submerged building. In the tank there should be a solution of bleach : water. 1 : 50. Whilst in the tank, keep the bleach solution moving using a broom or something to this description. This should get rid of mildew and light stains. The structures can be left 48 hours. Occasionally this process will be repeated depending on condition of structure. Structure should be completely under surface of bleach solution.
- Take the structure out and lay on clean water proof sheet. Structure should now be flattened and gone over with a pressure washer. This process can take as long as 10 minutes per square metre. Don't go too close to fabric (min 300mm) as it can damage the fabric fibres.
- Flip the structure over to pressure wash the inside of the structure, insuring all interior stitching and material is clean. Otherwise mildew/mould will spread. The structure will have absorbed a lot of liquid so will be heavy and require all workforce to move it at this stage.
- If you are left with basic stains grease, tar, rust etc. It is best to extract these with a wet vac and the materials mentioned above. Pressure washer can also be used at this point. Apply the product, agitate, leave for five minutes and extract.
- It is now crucial that the structure is thoroughly dried within a maximum of 48 hours otherwise mildew is likely to return. For most effective drying the structure should be setup correctly as per the inflate setup manual as required for an event and allowed to dry out so it is completely bone-dry. The movement of air from the fans will help to evaporate the water. This may take up to 2 days depending on the humidity of the environment.

Industrial Washing Service

Structures up to 40Kg can be sent away for industrial cleaning. This service will bring back all white structures to whiter than white. Structures can be sent to Inflate UK direct for this service or ask for your nearest cleaner.

Inflate recommend wonder Gel

Replaces most other cleaning agents a concentrated water soluble Ph Balanced Orange Oil Based Gel. A super powerful cleaner and degreaser, safe for use on all surfaces including heat producing equipment. This gel is gentle on your hands, contains no sulfates or phosphates and works on ALL surfaces. This new cutting edge pure orange oil base cleaning gel replaces absolutely ALL your household cleaning products.

Using the triple gel is quite simple. It comes in a gel form that can be diluted 1-40 or less as required. The gel is massaged into the fabric where the dirt is and will attract the oil or dirt to the cloth. Rinsing with water will remove the dirt foam leaving a cleaned area.

03 Repairs

In the unlikely event of tears in a structure they can be repaired on site as below. If you are at all unsure on site please call the relevant Inflate office for the country you are in. Inflate offers a full on and off site repair service to back up any repairs you may need to make yourself.

Rip Stop Nylon

Temporary quick on site repairs

Temporary repairs can be made to tears up to 400mm long with self-adhesive Dacron tape on site. The tape should ideally be applied to the inside and the outside for extra effectiveness. Please clean and dry both surfaces prior to applying the tape. If you are able to heat the Dacron tape post application this will help to enhance the adhesion.

Larger tears may need a section of cardboard or extra fabric patch as re-enforcement behind the tear which is then fixed in place with the Dacron tape.

Some tears can be hand stitched on site to hold tear closed prior to the tape being applied for a more durable repair.

Please note the structures will still function with small tears in them as they are airflow structures and the fans have the capacity to compensate for airloss.

PVC

Temporary quick on site repairs

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Permanent bonded PVC patches can also be applied on site if the structure is able to be deflated to conduct the repair work.

Please note the structures will still function with small tears in them as they are airflow structures and the fans have the capacity to compensate for airloss.

Factory Repairs

All the structures can be returned to factory for repairs and full servicing. Please note this work may need to be booked in advance and 24 hour service is not always possible.

Repairs will be made using the best method possible with panels being replaced where needed.

Inflate can also come on site with portable equipment to make amends and repairs. For this would the structures will need to be clean, dry and deflated.



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