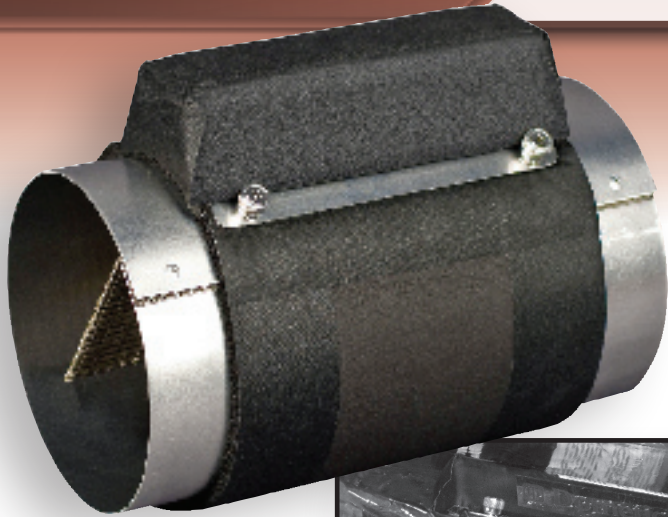
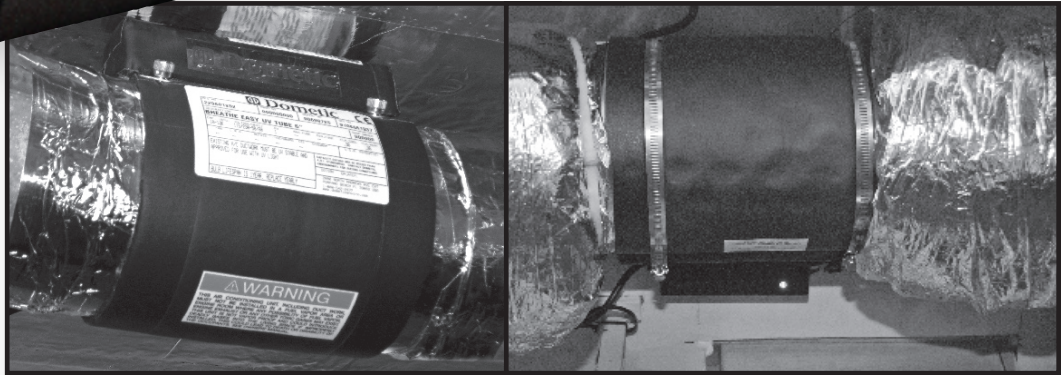


CLEARING THE AIR

DOMETIC'S AWARD-WINNING AIR
PURIFIER ZAPS MOLD SPORES.



The In-Duct Breathe Easy Air Purifier unit, topped by a UV light, above, is inserted into a vessel's air-conditioning ducting, right.



Mold is the silent scourge of the South, especially when it comes to boats that are left unattended on the water for any period of time. There are various mold and mildew remedies on the market, but few are as elegantly engineered as the new In-Duct Breathe Easy Air Purifier from Dometic, manufacturer of Cruisair and Marine Air air-conditioning units, as well as a host of other marine products.

The folks at Boating Writers International (BWI) and the National Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA) must agree, because they gave it a 2010 IBEX Innovation Award in the Mechanical Systems category at the International BoatBuilders Exhibition (IBEX) in September.

The In-Duct Breathe Easy Air Purifier is a cylindrical system designed to fit inside a boat's regular air-conditioning ducting. "You take the existing ducting, cut it, and slide the Breathe Easy tube inside," said Dometic Project Engineer Bill Liptak.

Since the system is sized according to the diameter of the AC ducting, it is appropriate for use aboard any boat from 30 to 300 feet and longer. The Breathe Easy unit can be installed during the original construction process – as Trinity Yachts is currently doing on two big new build projects – but it is also easy for a qualified service yard to retrofit onto an older boat. "It's really simple technology; it's all in how we engineered it," Bill said.

As air circulates through the In-Duct Breathe Easy Air Purifier, a non-ozone-producing UV light destroys the DNA of bacteria, spores and other contaminants, significantly reducing related odors. Contaminants also are destroyed when they touch the system's three-dimensional Photocatalytic Nano-Mesh panel, which is coated with titanium dioxide. The more passes the air makes through the system, the more purified it becomes.

The Environmental Diagnostics Laboratory, an independent testing facility, recently reported its findings that the Breathe Easy system reduces indoor air pollutants overall, including up to a 100-percent reduction of bacteria, surface mold and volatile organic compounds (VOCs).

Early word-of-mouth feedback is good.

"The captain of a Cheoy Lee had the system installed just before he went to lunch, came back two hours later, and already noticed that the air was cleaner," Bill said. "It's also very effective on diesel odors."

He added that the system's draw is just 3/10th of an amp. "It's in line with a 12-watt lightbulb," he said. The In-Duct Breathe Easy Air Purifier also is billed as having silent operation, another plus for boat owners. dometic.com

By LOUISA BECKETT