

Stowage tips and tricks

- When vacuum-bagging items, make sure they are clean and dry before putting them in the bag. Even a small amount of moisture will lead to condensation and eventually mold.
- Unless items are vacuum-bagged, air circulation is the key to preventing mold and mildew. Don't pack lockers too full with little or no space between items. This restricts air circulation and promotes mold and mildew, even in lockers with louvered doors.
- Hanging clothes should be stored in hanging plastic bags with cedar balls or strips. Use plastic hangers, not metal. Even the coated metal hangers, if damaged, will deposit rust stains on your clothes. Keep hanging clothes from moving—the constant motion of the boat can cause the hanger to chafe right through the fabric.
- On boats where space limitations prohibit stowing hanging clothes, hang the clothes on plastic hangers, and then pull long dry-cleaning bags over each individual item or at most three items at a time. Tie the bottom of the bag tightly, then roll the bag and the clothes from the bottom up, leaving the hanger sticking out at the top of the roll. Tape the opening around the hanger neck. Stow these rolls in any locker or on any shelf. When you want to wear the clothes, pull them out, shake, and let them hang for an hour or so in the fresh air.
- Though expensive, bulky and difficult to stow, dedicated waterproof safety cases (such as Pelican cases) provide the most complete protection for delicate electronics. Use foam inserts to pad the cases and use desiccant or silica gel to help protect your equipment. Small waterproof cases with O-rings to keep moisture out can be purchased for cameras, cell phones, satellite phones, and other small electronics.
- Clean smelling sheets and soft, fresh towels are one of life's little luxuries. Both can be stowed in a well-ventilated locker in zippered plastic bags with fabric softener sheets between them; they remain sweet-smelling for several months at a time.