

Corrosion is one nemesis of aircraft. But, now the twins, fungus and mildew, have joined the fight. Like a virus, they grow on the inside surfaces of the Apache's avionics bay, ammo bay and tail boom.

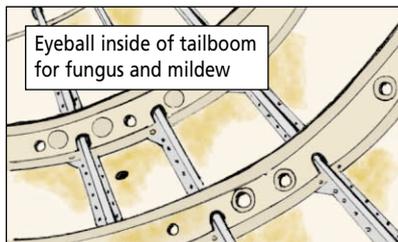
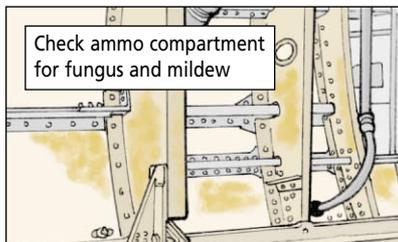
To annihilate these microbiological growths and keep 'em from coming back to dine on your bird, use the procedures below.

(As always, follow your TMs warnings and cautions and use protective measures before cleaning. Wear safety goggles, NSN 4240-00-052-3776 or 4240-01-292-2818, to shield your eyes from chemical splashes. And always wear rubber gloves, NSN 8415-00-266-8677, when handling chemicals.

When using fungus remover, P-D-410 and mildew remover, OS-642, never mix them together.)

Removing Fungus Growth

Remove fungus by scrubbing with a solution of 2 ounces of P-D-410, NSN 7930-00-880-4454, per 1 gallon of water. On unpainted surfaces the scrubbing mixture won't remove the fungus. You must remove the fungus like it says in Chapter 5 of TM 1-1500-344-23. After the fungus is removed, rinse the area thoroughly of all residue.



Removing Mildew

Mildew may be produced by fungus growing on organic matter that adheres to a soft paint film or on the paint itself.

Remove mildew by scrubbing with tri-basic sodium phosphate, OS-642, NSN 6810-00-141-6080. Mix 3 pounds per 10 gallons of water and apply to affected areas. Then, rinse off immediately with clean water and dry with a lint free cloth. Leaving the solution on a painted surface too long will loosen the paint. To prevent reoccurrence of mildew, you should remove the old paint like it says in TM 1-1500-345-23 and TM 1-1500-344-23.

Cleaning Plastics

Plastics are composed of different chemical compositions varying widely in chemical and physical properties.

One plastic may be cleaned by one method, but that method may destroy another type of plastic. Generally, organic solvents, like petroleum solvents and mineral spirits paint thinner, should not be used to clean plastic or come in contact with plastic.

Always clean plastic by wiping with a lint-free cloth or sponge moistened with clean water, or a solution of 2 ounces of P-D-410 per gallon of water.

Plastics are polished by rubbing with ground abrasive technical pumice (SS-P-821). For other cleaning methods of certain plastics, check out TM 1-1500-344-23 or TM 1-1500-343-23, which contain CPCs and sealants needed to get rid of fungus and mildew.



BY THE WAY, IF YOU NEED CORROSION PREVENTION SITE VISITS OR HELP, CONTACT THE PEO AVIATION CORROSION ASSISTANCE TEAM HOTLINE AT DSN 897-0209, (256) 313-0209 OR CALL SIDNEY HARRISON AT: (256) 876-9034 OR DSN 746-9034.