

## Ali Wood uses the PBO Project boat to test a water purification system, coveralls and boat wash



### Portable purification

Hopefully your boat isn't leaking as much as *Maximus* right now, or if it is you're not so desperate as to need to drink the bilge water! That said, if you're not confident with the quality of your tank water – or maybe you've anchored somewhere remote and need to drink from a spring or river – the LifeSaver Liberty is a great solution. The portable filtration bottle is said to remove a minimum of 99.99% of dangerous viruses, bacteria and cysts from any fresh water source. At just 425g it's compact and lightweight, and holds 400ml, so is ideal for trekking, camping or taking out on a dinghy or kayak expedition.

I decided to test the LifeSaver Liberty on *Maximus* by drinking the stagnant water from the forepeak locker, which had gathered (probably from a leaking vent) over the two years spent in the yard.

Before using the filter bottle, I primed it by filling it with clean water for five minutes then pumping it through. A word of caution: you need to permanently leave around a centimetre of water in the filter cartridge with the pump tightened and the water flow valve shut. Failure to do so will cause the membrane to dry out, costing



**ABOVE** LifeSaver Liberty (left) and LifeSaver Cube  
**LEFT** Ali fished out the spinnaker and drank the water from the locker once it was purified



you £50 for a new cartridge!

What's nice about the technology is that it only uses pressure to force the water through the membrane, so there's no strenuous sucking or waiting around for chemicals to do their work. Plus, it can treat 2,000lt of water

before the filter needs replacing.

Once on board *Maximus* I attached the scavenger hose. You don't have to use this – you could scoop or pour the water into the base – but at 5m it's a handy length for accessing hard-to-reach water sources. I pulled the float down to the end of the hose to keep the nozzle afloat at the top of the water, where it would be 'freshest'. After just a couple of pumps, the water bubbled out remarkably clear and the flow-rate was surprisingly fast (1.2 litres per minute). I soon realised, after dribbling it all down my chin (you can watch the video if you want a laugh), that it's easier to sip from the rim and not the spout. However, you could also pour it into a cup or even screw the bottle onto a separate container (not included) such as a Nalgene or Hydro Flask bottle.

It's a fair investment for any boat owner, but compared to a dicky tummy, hospitalisation or worse from drinking unsanitary water, I can certainly see the benefit. And now I can add 'Amazon River' to my *Maximus* sailing bucket list!

Price: £124.99.

■ [iconlifesaver.com](http://iconlifesaver.com)



**There was no shortage of dirty water on board *Maximus* – and Ali drank some of it to prove the effectiveness of the water purification system**

## Filter more water

A larger version of the water filtration system is also available. The 5-litre LifeSaver Cube was originally developed in conjunction with Oxfam, and is extremely robust. Perfect for the galley, it works using the same technology as the Liberty, and as well as removing all the



nasties from the water, it also takes away the tastes and smells from the treated water. I haven't tried this one yet... but there's still plenty of water in the pilot berth locker, the bilges and the anchor locker to drink. Yum!

Price: £120.

■ [iconlifesaver.com](http://iconlifesaver.com)

■ You can watch the video of the LifeSaver Liberty test on Practical Boat Owner's YouTube channel



**1** Attach the scavenger hose to the nozzle of the filtration bottle.



**2** Pull the float to the bottom of the hose and drop in the dirty water.



**3** Pump the base and clean water will bubble out of the spout.

## Coveralls

I've been really impressed with the Ladies Site Hammer Coverall from Screwfix. The durable, yet soft polyester/cotton mix fabric is comfortable over bare legs on hot days, as well as roomy enough to fit over trousers. There's a 2-way front zip, adjustable waist, and plenty of flex in the knees. It's not waterproof but still offers a good degree of protection against the elements for working outside.

I often struggle with finding a good fit when it comes to clothing, so was pleasantly surprised to find the first one I ordered fitted perfectly (I'm a UK size 12 and chose a small). It's actually quite smart for a boiler suit, with its shirt collar and shiny brass-coloured zips. I like the deep pockets, including hip and leg pockets, as well as hand-holes on the hips so you can reach the pockets of whatever you're wearing underneath. Available in various sizes for men and women.

Price: £19.99.

■ [screwfix.com](http://screwfix.com)



Coveralls are perfect for boat work



## Boat cleaning pack

I was thrilled when the package of Clean to Glean products arrived at the yard, because if there's anything *Maximus* needs, it's a good clean. I naively thought we might just need to clean her once, then again before launch, but being next to a hedge full of nesting birds, not to mention a working yard full of grinders, sanders and flying paint dust, it's become a weekly chore. Tempting though it is to just get going with the topsides, varnish the tiller or prime the keel, you need a clean surface to begin with otherwise it's an uphill battle.

We haven't tested all the products yet, but have used the boat wash on several occasions and, as promised, it removes the grime, bird poo and algae very easily simply with a bucket and water.

Gary Winter, owner of Clean to Glean, has over 15 years experience in marine valeting, and has travelled all over the world to research and develop his own range of products.

"A lot of people think you need a pressure washer, but you don't," he said. "The boat cleaning products will do it themselves. You need the right kind of sponges, then you need to get the polish over the top, otherwise the elements and algae will stick in the gelcoat."

The boat wash is available on its own (£20 for 1lt or £65 for 5lt) or comes as part of the Clean to Glean pack, which is beautifully presented in a durable blue bag, and would actually make a nice gift... as long as the lucky boat owner doesn't take it the wrong way!

The pack has 1lt of boat polish, 1lt of RIB cleaner, 750ml interior cleaner, 750ml glass cleaner, 750ml deodoriser, grade 1, 2 and 3 sponges and a pack of microfibre cloths.

The products are all available separately, and there's also a pack option including hard paste wax, which costs an extra £30.

Price: £125.

■ [cleantogleam.com](http://cleantogleam.com)