

Visqueen as a Boat Camo Material

There have been a bunch of questions on the use of Visqueen, how to do it, how does it look, what color...etc. So, thought I'd revisit the topic without the need to be on the water. So.....let's take a look. Most of the time, you can get away with a boat painted in open water grays and it works great. We use our Open Water Medium Gray (FME #33) as a base color and follow that with an over-stripe of Open Water Light Gray (FME #32).



Ok, Let's look at that boat (Whistler's Kid Brother-prototype) laid out on the grass. Visqueen won't make it look like grass but we'll be able to get an idea of the "look of water".



Visqueen as a Boat Camo Material

Now we just throw a layer of visqueen (6 mil, clear/translucent, construction plastic-check with Northern Cashway Lumber as a source) (Lee...just some recip. for all your help) over the boat & you can get an idea as to how it will disappear in the water. Visqueen is that construction plastic sheeting you see wrapped around an active construction site. It comes in 100' rolls and varying widths.



You'll notice how we have areas bunched up. We tie decoy line around that (1/8" or so, parachute cord) and use decoy anchors to hold the outside edge down into the water. We have clamps that hold the visqueen along the outer edge of the spray curtain. You will need cutouts for the anchor fittings and do an "L" cutout for the hunters. This "L" allows the hunter to pull it over and hide but easily move it out of the way for shooting.



Visqueen as a Boat Camo Material

You see my oldest son, Brian, in the boat with the "L" pulled up over him. Yup, he's winching since I have him facing into the sun for the picture. :0 Just a little payback.



This shot gives you an idea how it is to come up out of the "L" and into shooting position.



Visqueen as a Boat Camo Material

Here is a shot of the knotted and tied section with a decoy anchor for holding the visqueen down into the water.



Here's the clamps we use for attaching to the outer edge of the curtain....any hardware store i.e. pick them up from Northern Cashway Lumber when you're getting the visqueen. ;) Most building supply houses will stock visqueen & clamps.



Visqueen as a Boat Camo Material

And...here is the slit for accessing the cleat for anchoring the boat.



That's all folks. ;) Holler with any questions.

Lou

duckguylsb@Juno.com

Helping You Enjoy Your Sport!

www.lockstockbarrell.com

www.eallendecoys.com

www.scfwa.net (our decoy carving club)

www.rccd.org (R/C Model Club-NL Editor)

Visqueen as a Boat Camo Material

We've been using the visqueen for over 20 years and it's like magic. We did some testing with our Whistler 2-man layout boat, with the boat covered but not the hunters. For this test, we were not coming up to shoot....merely laying there, not moving and watching the birds. With the hunters bodies exposed with green & brown camo....in a gray boat....the birds were flaring at about 15-20 yards. Yup, still killable. Then we covered up with visqueen and the birds were literally flying 2 feet over the top of our heads. They never knew the boat was there. Had another customer with one of our boats, covered with visqueen and some Buffy never saw the boat and on a crossing path, one bird ran into the boat, snapped it's neck and tumbled into the water.....dead. There was not a shot fired on that bird.

This is one of our South Bay Scooters in our Reed Stripe Camo Pattern. Nice color & pattern for marsh hunting but not that good for layout shooting. So.....covered it with visqueen (same boat, same paint) and turned it into a real gunning tub. ;) Also, some folks worry about the shadow under the boat. Take a look at all the shadows that are created in each wave. Enjoy. Lou



Visqueen as a Boat Camo Material

I've only used visqueen once with those boys in Alaska, but it sure worked that day. Those guys had never shot three geese in a season and Carl got these three out of one flock out in the bay, sitting in a mud colored KARA. Someone must have called the coast guard because he got buzzed by a rescue helicopter. Me and Nick were sitting in the tender watching the magic. Oh ya, and they sunk that tender in that spot the next weekend if I remember. No one died, but they got famous.

Somebody maybe already said it, but free source of heavy plastic can be found on mattresses. A king sized comes in a big arse bag.
Mike "Yukon Mike" Prawdzik
Whitehorse, Yukon



That's all folks....again ;)
Holler with any questions.
Lou
duckguylsb@Juno.com

Helping You Enjoy Your Sport!

www.lockstockbarrell.com
www.eallendecoys.com
www.scfwa.net (our decoy carving club)
www.rccd.org (R/C Model Club-NL Editor)

Visqueen as a Boat Camo Material

*****Passing Thoughts & Ideas*****

There was a fella on this forum (www.duckboats.net) several years ago who covered his Boston Whaler with Visqueen and he had Woodies landing 6 feet from the boat and the birds never knew the hunters or the boat were there. Don't recall who it was but I do recall the story.

Truthfully, he started the post out with the headline "ok, Lou Tisch isn't full of shit" and then he told the story. Now, if the truth be told, I might be full of it but the visqueen does work well. ;) It has "saved" many hunts for us.

We did some studying and wore green & brown camo in the layout boat and were not shooting so we could study the birds reactions. Birds were flaring at about 20 yards or so. Still killable but flaring non-the-less. So, we covered our bodies up with the visqueen (and were not fussing with the guns to shoot) and the birds were flying 2 feet over our heads.

Somebody else here was shooting out of his layout boat, covered with visqueen. A bunch of Buffies came across the bow and one didn't see the boat, ran into it, snapped it's neck and fell into the water.....dead. That saves on ammo. ;)

=====

Thanks to Lou, this will be my 9th season using this excellent technique with results that are off the charts. After many, MANY hunts using visqueen for open water camo, allow me to add a few comments from experience. The most difficult aspect of using visqueen is controlling it in the wind. Any place wind can find it's way under the plastic it balloons up like a sail causing unwanted movement, added foreign noise and rips at stress points. This is particularly problematic around the cockpit area. As the pictures are above, it would be very difficult to keep the visqueen under control. I use the same type of clips you see around the perimeter all around the inside edges of the cockpit. Keeping a good supply of them in a box, I use as many as necessary to keep wind from ballooning under the visqueen which it will if there is any opportunity.

If you want to get more than one or two uses out of your visqueen, it helps to reinforce corners where the plastic has been cut around the cockpit. These corners are the places where the wind causes it to rip. I use duct tape underneath the visqueen at these stress points. The sticky under side of the duct tape under the visqueen blend in and isn't noticed by the ducks. A couple times I've actually had Goldeneyes fly in so close and fast you could almost swat them down with a tennis racket (if they didn't get by you first)!

Also, instead of twisting the visqueen to attach weights, I use the plastic pinch on grommets available at most hardware stores and some dollar stores. The kind I have a blue in color, but underwater it is a non-factor. The best strategy is to fold the plastic on the edge where the grommet is so that it is doubled up at the highest stress point. I've never had one of these tear off in use on the water.

Another suggestion is use more weight than you think around the perimeter to keep the visqueen down around the edges and underwater. It is critical to have the entire circumference under the surface of the water or wind will make your life miserable. I use 2 1/2 pound steel weights for weight lifting (use the five pound version for gang rigs too). Don't skimp on the number of weights holding the plastic under the water. Eight is good and ten is better.

The final tip is use the heaviest construction grade visqueen you can find. I forget the mils, but it is thick enough even the clear looks kind of white in color. You will know when you've found it because the price jumps significantly for the good stuff. Whatever you do don't skimp here, the thicker the better.

In summary, if your visqueen is under complete control and wind isn't creating chaos, you will really like the almost invisible stealth. However, if you don't figure out a system to control that plastic in the wind it will be very comical to watch and I guarantee you will quickly reject his unique idea..... Rick H. Saginaw Bay, Michigan

Visqueen as a Boat Camo Material

*****Passing Thoughts & Ideas*****

Lou, I know the visqueen works in the winter when the edges of the river I hunt get ice on them out from shore and there is open water in the middle of the river. I have always, for some reason used 2 layers of visqueen. I just had a roll of the stuff from Farm and Fleet that they sell for putting over the windows in the winter. Last fall was the first time I used it on a lake, I was out in the middle but in some vegetation. I just used duct tape to hold the plastic around the aqua pod. It was much quicker than grassing up the boat. The birds never saw what shot em. I attached the picture you posted the other day. That picture was what first sold me on the idea.

While in college I used to go flying with my neighbor who was an aviation major and a hunter. We would scout spots from the air. I always noticed how open water looked like a reflection of the sky. Out on the water the visqueen just blends in.

Mike N. North Illinois

I'll tell you, if ever there was a need for visqueen on a particular day....this would verify it. Several years ago, on Lake St. Clair, we had a lot of wind during the season and it kept the water churned up and colored ... Baby Poop Brown. I know that the birds are typically seeing the reflection of the sky in the water but the Open Water Gray boat just didn't look proper in that brown water. So, I tested the color of the water on Thursday & mixed up that exact color in FME and painted the boat on Friday since I had customers coming in for a Layout Hunt on Saturday. Well, as luck might have it, the wind and water settled down Friday evening and the water was back to it's proper color but the boat was still....Baby Poop Brown (the color you see in the picture). That was the day for Visqueen. ;)

Lou Tisch Lake St. Clair, Michigan

