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Cleaning Recommendations for Electrical Connectors

Models Affected

Models Covered	Serial Number
Mercury/Mariner/Force	All production models

Situation

SmartCraft components have experienced some problems caused by contamination of the various multi-pin connectors. Problems can include non-functioning instruments or gauges and intermittent sensor faults. It can also be the cause of intermittent engine operation problems.

Open connectors will become contaminated and the performance compromised if the terminals and seal areas are exposed to contaminants. This can occur either while the boat and motor are being serviced or during the original installation. A few simple precautions will help to prevent problems.

- If open connectors are located in an area being worked in, protect the open connectors with a small plastic bag or something similar that is secured to keep dust and debris from entering.
- Avoid spraying oils, corrosion preventative compounds, and other contaminating liquids in the vicinity of harness and component connectors.
- When boat installation is completed, any unused harness and component connectors should be capped, plugged or otherwise protected to prevent contaminants from entering. These practices help to prevent corrosion from entering the harness wiring and components.

Cleaning Instructions

The recommended cleaning process is a solvent wash followed by compressed air drying.

1. A solvent (see **Recommended Solvents**) can be sprayed into the connector and a soft brush (such as a small paint brush) can be used to help clean the contamination from the terminals and sealing areas.
 - a. Care must be taken not to damage any of the terminals. Do not push any type of tool into any female terminal as this could damage the terminal.
2. After solvent washing, the connector should be thoroughly dried with clean compressed air.

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Recommended Solvents

- Clean water (drinkable, distilled) followed by isopropyl alcohol for water, salt residue, and general cleaning.
- Mineral spirits for oils, corrosion preventative compounds, and general cleaning.

⚠ WARNING

Improper use of flammable solvents or cleaners can cause serious injury or death. Do not smoke or allow open flames or sparks in the area while servicing electrical connectors with flammable solvents and use in well - ventilated areas.

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