**INFLATABLE REPAVED**

In order to keep your inflatables up to a high standard safe usable for a long term, you need to regularly inspect them and maintain them in keep a log of all of your repayments. The inspection should take place daily by the management staff, preferably during and they shouldn't be looking for tears, Aaron leads, issues with the blowers, bulges in the flooring and reporting that in the log as well as notifying you via text or if you have communication accounts such as GroupMe, so you can get in there to do repairs. In most cases, it pays to be very proactive with your maintenance program on the inflatables because usually small tears in leaks can be fixed quickly and easily before they spread to much larger problems. One item you want to have on hand all times in the store is a product called tear aid and that is a adhesive vinyl repair tape that can be very quickly applied. Hey cost about $2 a foot so it's not cheap, but it can instantly repair tears in the hose and hold an inflatable in place until you have time to come to a patch. This is really good for your Saturday, Sunday failures. Yes, you can do a good blue patch in 20 or 30 minutes.

However, that's contingent upon having someone that knows how to do that on hand all the time. What Terry does, it gives you the ability for almost anybody to quickly make a repair and then when you have time, you can come in and do the long terms review. So that product is called tearing. And I believe you can order in about an 80 for the next item is your slide.

These are very important. These protect the inflatable. But they also protect the guests from seams or different items that might cause a burn against these should be backed daily with high grade silicone. In the appendix, you'll see a link to a company where you can buy a five gallon jug and overall tire wax. All of those are the same thing. They work just as well, which is more expensive than buying the silicone. But these slides should be waxed on a really busy Saturday, they should probably be waxed. The slide covers themselves need to be taken off and cleaned periodically. Really the Velcro needs to be clean. Brush at least once a quarter to keep that good function in shape and eventually you will have to replace the slide covers. Especially as this lines get used. Typically on most line covers once they get to tearing them. They're done and need to be replaced. You can use a mobile whole street person to repair them or there is a company out of Atlanta who does an excellent job with slide covers.

The only issue with them is you need to be very specific. We have to give them the specific dimensions and tell them exactly how you want but if you can give them that they do a great job your information is also I would never order a slide cover from the from inflatable depot. It takes about six months, it's very expensive in the quality is just not worth it. Different jump companies, I would give a different answer depending on what you're buying from them.

For example, we've had some cutting edge creations inflatables before and they were very reasonable on their slide cover replacements. So in the case of them for example, I would actually order a slide cover, not from inflatable depot, I would use the third party.

Now, the next thing to watch out for is bulges on my the floor by inflatables, mirror sports arena is going to be the one where you see issues most likely with bulges and when you see a bulge, what that means is the inner baffling in the sooner you get to these bulges the less it will spread. Usually when the bolts first appears the baffling has broken. But the jump is still in pretty good shape. But over time, the inner stitching of the flooring is going to start to fall apart. In motor vehicle eventually happens you will end up with a four or five foot hole in your inflatable. So it's important to get in there and repair. The best way to repair those is from the inside. We'll want to stitch up the flooring first and then once you get that stitched back together you'll want to stitch the back of the back to the slab floor. I recommend reinforcing the baffling first before stitching through it because of the thread tends to rip through the bathroom. You can reinforce the bathroom with one inch vinyl strapping, you can also take a piece of regular vinyl folded over and stitch into it, you just want to get a piece of material on there. That will keep the thread from ripping. Your stitch work does not have to be free, it does not have to be perfect or professional. It just needs to hold.

I recommend doing a lot of interrupted stitches or a lot of knots as you go. Because what happens is you don't want the string to break in all of your stitches to fall out. So you'll want to do not every three or four stitches if you can. That way one little section can break in the whole thing fall apart. As for thread, I recommend the lacks thread that didn't Walmart or a high tensile strength thread from a company like sell those all work very well. You always want to like I said try to do the repairs from the bottom. The reason for that is one that's just it's just the best way to do it. If you do it from the top you can have to cut open the floor, which is fine. But now you can leave patches, customers can see the patches and then in patches. There's nothing wrong with patch inflatables but customers sometimes have an elite perception of that. So you want to hide your patches on the inside. The other thing about patches is they never hold forever you constantly have to keep going back and re gluing them down. They always run anywhere. So the more patches you can do from the inside.

Now if you do have to cut into the floor, it is important that you stitch back up wherever you cut and cover any stitches you put in there with an additional x because the children's feet jumping up and down on the stitches will eventually break the stitches. The other kind of failures you have in the jumps tend to be more points where different features are stitched into the floor and with those a lot of times you can get away with just ditching them back up and they will hold pretty well. The entrance or the footstool get into the inflatables is another common finger point, those are usually hard to get to from the inside. So I usually start by stitching through the existing holes with new thread and then I will apply a blue patch on top of that to protect my stitching, which does have to be redone periodically.

Now if you ever get a tear or just a complete gash in an inflatable, what I recommend doing there is do a glue patch from the inside, then stitch the tear back together, followed by another blue patch on top of that. Now if it's in a very high use or very high tensile area, I actually recommend three patches, a blue patch on the bottom, that's stitched into place a new patch on top, which is stitched into place, followed by a third blue patch to cover it and I have never had a patch done like that failed. However, also very rarely do that because it's simply not needed except in the most extreme cases where there's just a tremendous amount of force being put on a specific spot. Keeping on top of the bullet holes and the little places where the stitches are failing, especially on the steps will really keep your inflatables working for a really long time and also to it'll limit the number of patches that are on it long term, which again there's a customer perception issue where the more patches you have the customer thinks less of your equipment even though there's really nothing wrong with having a few patches on your plane.

I do recommend getting inside of all your inflatables two or three times a year and inspecting them from the inside most of the time. You can spot the issues from the top side but nothing beats actually crawling around inside and inspecting least a few times a year. The netting is another area that needs to be looked closely. Once the netting vegetarian seems to go very, very fast. So you'll definitely be fast the stitching get back at the netting, I tend to try to stitch back together with thread. The best way to stitch the netting back together is Google repairing fishing nets and you will see a good strategy for how to tie knots and repair that type of netting for larger holes in the netting actually recommend just cutting it out and doing like a square replacement analysis. But by and large the best strategy is to spot and replace them. As for when you move to replace an inflatable. It really just depends on how much time having to put into keeping it alive. If it gets so many patches on that it starts to develop negative customer impression to replace it. If having to start adding blowers or extra horsepower to your blower to keep it inflated, it's time to replace it. If you in there on a weekly basis selling clothes, it's time to replace really the same logic you would apply to a new vehicle or a new piece of equipment in your house. When the cost to keep it working or the time to keep it working exceeds the value of replacing it, it's time to replace. One thing to keep in mind though about these replacements, playable depot, was looking at three to six months to get the product and I think for most of your other vendors, it's not it's between three to six months as well.

So you never want to wait till the absolute last minute to replace to be scheduled. Always be looking towards when I'm going to replace. Now, one nice thing is because we're going to recommend that you drop a few inflatables. You're going that have some spares and so long as you have storage for it. That's a great strategy to always have to spare, then you don't have to worry necessarily about having to order stuff three to six months in advance, if something reaches the point where it can't be repaired anymore and then you put your spear in place and you order a new flame and that strategy really works well, so long as you have the storage next. When it comes to blue patches, what do you use H66 Vinewood. This can be purchased on Amazon can also be purchased on websites like sell right?

It is very much like a rubber seal, or a context in which you apply the glue to both sides. Let it dry to attack the state, press it together. You can also use a blow dryer or a heat to make the glue. This is a great trick for really getting your edges welded to the inflatable. In terms of prepping the surface, I recommend H66 thinner product actually removes the glue as well. But it's a great product for getting any grease, grime, dirt, off the inflatable to help the glue adhere better.

However, that being said, it's not critical that you use that either. Because the H66 blue is just so incredible that you don't really have to do that. But if you do want to prep the area or if you need to remove the H66 is a great product to use there the blue really dries pretty instantly, like I used again 10 or 15 minutes after application. However, for him to truly fully set bond does take four hours. So I usually try to do my blue patches after closing. So they drive or not before and that's obviously not a full 24 hours. But that does give you a good 12 hours of drive time, which is always a bit more than I don't like to do blue patches during the day just because they don't set as well. It also has a very toxic smell. So I don't want to expose my customers to that.

Whenever you do a repair, you need to document it in your repair log. The only time that's ever really been the case in a lawsuit, a negligence claim. But you want to have documentation there. It's also good for you to make a list of all the troubled areas in your jumps you have enough inflatables that are old enough with enough problems that you're going to lose track of where every little whole is. So by trying to keep a log, it'll really help you when you go back through kind of your quarterly inspections. To take a look give you kind of a checklist to go back through your all your repair jobs and then now if you don't want to repair the inflatables yourself, there are people out there that do it. The rates are anywhere from $75 an hour to $200 an hour. There's not a lot of them to be using you have to pay for them to travel as well.

You want to find out there's no certification license that goes along with these people. They're not like electricians or plumbers that are licensed and bonded. So really what you kind of have to do to scale based on the recommendations of the people. Most of these guys are going to travel around with industrial sewing machine. Which is going to produce very nice tight stitching but in many cases the glue patches you can do yourself and that would be just as good if not better than the sewing machine. There is a guy who services in North Carolina area that has information and the contacts what, what a lot of operators have opted to do but as it's kind of expensive to get through the pyramid, there is they create kind of a quarterly program where maybe they bring the repair dial was important and that made me even negotiate some flat rates along with that.

So to keep their inflatables working in between visits they would use a product line tearing and then every quarter when they would have the inflatable repairman come out he would do a lot of permanent patches a lot of preventative maintenance and keep the inflatables in good working and that strategy appears to work pretty good for people who use it that way. I think the key to making that strategy work is keeping you going on a quarterly basis, I think where people get in trouble is they ignore the maintenance of your gems and then they get a major failure and they have to pay you know, $1,000 to have the inflatable guy can do wound repair doesn't really make sense.

What doesn't make a lot of sense is paying $1,000 on one trip to fix all your problems and then you do little batches for three months and then you pay for the $1,000 cannot fix a bunch of problems at once rather than waiting for there to be a critical flaw to the habits