

Sunbrella® Care and Maintenance

Some of the most frequently asked questions about Sunbrella® brand fabrics concern care and cleaning. The good news is that Sunbrella is designed to be easy to maintain. By following a few simple cares and cleaning steps, the fabric will maintain its good looks for many years.

Important Background:

Sunbrella fabrics are made from 100% solution-dyed acrylic yarns. Solution-dyeing is the process of adding color to fibers during manufacturing while they are in a liquid state. This characteristic of Sunbrella fabrics is the key to locking in color, easy cleaning and long life. When washing or cleaning, DO NOT SUBJECT TO EXCESSIVE HEAT as the fabric will shrink. DO NOT STEAM PRESS OR DRY IN ELECTRIC OR GAS DRYERS. Allow fabrics to air dry. Because Sunbrella fabrics are woven, they are also highly breathable, which is why they dry quickly with only air exposure. It's also important to know that Sunbrella fabrics are treated with a fluorocarbon finish, which enhances water repellency. This finish requires replenishment after vigorous cleaning (303 Hi Tech Fabric Guard or similar product).

Sunbrella fabrics will not support the growth of mildew, but dirt on the fabric will promote mildew growth, which makes regular cleanings important. No set timetable exists for when fabric should be cleaned, and the local environment has a great deal to do with determining cleaning frequency. Cleaning is required less frequently in a dry environment than in a humid one with heavy foliage.

Sunbrella® is a registered trademark of Glen Raven, Inc.

Casual Furniture: Care and Maintenance

Sunbrella brand fabrics should be cleaned regularly before substances such as dirt and food particles are allowed to accumulate on and become embedded in the fabric. The fabric can be cleaned without being removed from the piece by simply brushing off any loose dirt, etc. and cleaning with water and a mild soap solution (no more than 100 degrees F).

If the fabric can be removed from furniture, it may be cleaned in a mild soap and lukewarm water solution (less than 100 degrees F) in a washing machine and dried in an environment also less than 100 degrees F. When washing or cleaning, do not subject to excessive heat as the fabric will shrink. Do not steam press or dry in electric or gas dryers. Allow fabric to air dry.

Cleaning Solutions: Our recommended cleaning solution for most stains consists of 0.5 ounce of antibacterial dishwashing liquid to 22.5 ounces of water. For stubborn stains please consult the Stain Chart.

Cleaning Method

1. Remove any residual soil by lightly brushing or scraping the stain. Attempt to remove stain by sponging with water.
2. If further cleaning is needed, apply light mist of our recommended cleaning solution using a spray bottle.
3. Work the solution into the stain by lightly scrubbing the area with a sponge or very soft bristle brush.
4. Remove cleaning solution with a wet-vac if possible, but at the very least blot with a clean soft towel or sponge to remove the stain and excess cleaning solution. Repeat steps 2-4 until stain is removed.
5. Rinse the affected area thoroughly with clean water applied with a spray bottle and extract the remaining moisture using a wet-vac, sponge, or towel. Repeat rinsing method if needed to thoroughly remove cleaning solution from the fabric.

Helpful Hints If possible remove fabric and wash-and-rinse in a washing machine using lukewarm water (less than 100 degrees F) and mild soap. Air dry.

Residential Furniture: Care and Maintenance

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- Vacuum the fabric prior to cleaning.
- Minimize spread of the stain to the surrounding clean fibers.
- Do not be alarmed if stain is not removed after first application and removal of cleaning solution.
- Do not use a stiff brush that may abrade fabric.
- Rinse thoroughly.

Awning/Marine: Care and Maintenance

One of the best ways to keep Sunbrella® brand fabric looking good and to delay the need for deep or vigorous cleanings is to hose fabrics off on a monthly basis with clear water. This practice will help prevent dirt from becoming deeply imbedded in the fabric and eliminate the need for more frequent vigorous cleanings. In most environments, a thorough cleaning will be needed every two to three years.

When it's time for a thorough cleaning, Sunbrella fabrics can be cleaned while still on an awning frame or a boat or, size permitting, they can be removed for cleaning in a washing machine.

When cleaning Sunbrella fabrics, it is important to observe the following:

- Always use a mild soap i.e. Ivory Snow, Dreft or Woolite. Never detergent.
- Water should be cold to lukewarm. Never more than 100 degrees.
- Air dry only. Never apply heat to Sunbrella fabrics.

If you are cleaning Sunbrella while still on an awning frame or a boat, follow these simple steps:

- Brush off loose dirt.
- Hose down.
- Prepare a cleaning mixture of water and mild soap (no detergents).
- Use a soft bristle brush to clean.
- Allow soap to soak in.
- Rinse thoroughly.
- Air dry.

If stubborn stains persist, you can use a diluted chlorine bleach/soap mixture for spot cleaning of mildew, roof run-off or other similar stains (see the Stain Chart for specific recommendations).

Prepare a special cleaning mixture:

- Eight ounces (one cup) of chlorine bleach.
- Two ounces (one-fourth cup) of mild soap.
- One gallon of water.
- Clean with soft bristle brush.
- Allow mixture to soak for up to 20 minutes.
- Rinse thoroughly.
- Air dry.
- Repeat if necessary.

Remember to protect the area around your Sunbrella® brand fabric if using a bleach solution. Carpet or other fabrics that are not Sunbrella may have an adverse reaction to the bleach.

If an awning or boat cover is suitable in size for a washing machine, these steps should be followed:

- Use only mild soaps. No detergent.
- Wash and rinse in cold water.
- Air dry. Never put Sunbrella fabrics in your dryer.

Re-treating the Fabric

As part of the finishing process, Sunbrella fabrics are treated with a fluorocarbon finish, which enhances water repellency. This finish is designed to last for several years, but must be replenished after a thorough cleaning. Based on test results, Glen Raven recommends 303 High Tech Fabric Guard™ as the preferred re-treatment product for Sunbrella fabrics. Fabrics should be retreated after thorough cleaning or after five years of use. Check with your local Sunbrella dealer or distributor for more information.

Applying 303 High Tech Fabric Guard™

303 should be applied to Sunbrella fabrics after each thorough cleaning, which typically removes the original fluorocarbon finish and reduces the fabric's water repellency. After cleaning the fabric, allow it to air dry completely and then apply 303 in a thin, even coat. After allowing the first coat of 303 to air dry, apply a second thin, even coating of 303. Two light coatings are more effective in restoring fabric water resistance than a single heavy coating. A 15-ounce bottle provides coverage of up to 50 square feet of lightweight fabric. Always apply 303 to clean fabric.

Professional Awning Cleaners

You may have access to professional cleaning firms that service awnings. In evaluating the services of a professional firm, you should inquire about a firm's experience in working with Sunbrella fabrics and knowledge of cleaning and re-treatment requirements.