

Shade Fabrics Care and Cleaning



One of the best ways to keep Sunbrella® fabrics looking good is to hose fabrics off on a monthly basis with clean water. This helps prevent dirt from becoming deeply embedded in the fabric and eliminates the need for more frequent vigorous cleaning. 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, size permitting, they can be removed to aid in the cleaning of stubborn spills or for professional cleaning.

General or Light Cleaning

To clean Sunbrella while still on an awning frame:

- Brush off loose dirt.
- Hose down.
- Prepare a cleaning solution of water and mild soap or use [Sunbrella Clean™ Multi-Purpose Fabric Cleaner](#).
- Use a soft bristle brush to clean.
- Allow cleaning solution to soak into the fabric.
- Rinse thoroughly until all soap residue is removed.
- Air dry.
- May not require retreatment depending on the age of the fabric.

For roof run-off or other similar spills a strong degreaser or [Sunbrella Extract™ Oil Based Stain Remover](#) may be required.

Heavy Cleaning for Stubborn Spills and Mildew

Sunbrella fabrics do not promote mildew growth, however, mildew may grow on dirt and other foreign substances that are not removed from the fabric.

To clean stubborn spills:

- Prepare a solution of 1 cup of bleach and 1/4 cup mild soap per gallon of clean water or use [Sunbrella Renew™ Mold & Mildew Stain Remover](#).
- Allow mixture to soak into fabric for up to 15 minutes.
- Clean with soft bristle brush.
(Note: Skip this step when cleaning the coated side of Sunbrella Plus.)
- Rinse thoroughly until all soap residue is removed.
- Air dry.
- Repeat if necessary.
- Retreatment of fabric for water and stain resistance will be necessary after using bleach solution.

Note: Use caution when cleaning the coated (underside) of Sunbrella Plus with the recommended bleach solution. The coated side of the fabric should only be sprayed with the bleach solution and rinsed thoroughly.

Helpful Hints

While Sunbrella fabric offers excellent protection against stains, full removal is not always guaranteed if spills are not addressed promptly.

Protect the area around the Sunbrella fabric when using a bleach solution – bleach may discolor non-Sunbrella fabrics. Always rinse Sunbrella thoroughly to completely remove bleach.

Please be aware of the environment when cleaning with bleach. Bleach can have harmful effects on the natural environment around you. We do not advise using bleach if you are surrounded by a body of water or other environment that could be affected.

Sunbrella should only be allowed to air dry.

Use of bleach and/or advanced age of the fabric application may impact the deterioration of the sewing thread and other non-Sunbrella components.

Oil-Based Spills

Immediately apply an absorbent such as cornstarch directly on the oil-based spill. Let sit for 10 minutes and remove the excess using a straight edge or ruler. This helps remove the spill and prevents it from being pressed into the fabric. Then proceed with the cleaning process.

For tough stains, use [Sunbrella Extract Oil Based Stain Remover](#) or treat with a strong degreaser and rinse thoroughly.

Specific information on cleaning is available in our [Cleaning Guide](#).

Retreating Sunbrella Fabrics

Sunbrella fabrics are engineered to provide long-term performance. After repeated thorough cleanings, or extended use and exposure, you may choose to refresh your fabrics with an appropriate retreating agent. We recommend [Sunbrella Restore™ Fabric Protector & Repellent](#), available in the United States, and [Tex'Aktiv](#), available internationally.

Applying a retreatment:

- Clean Sunbrella fabric, using one of the cleaning methods outlined above.
- Allow Sunbrella to completely air dry.
- Apply retreatment outdoors in a well-ventilated area following instructions on the container.

Professional Awning Cleaners

You may have access to professional awning cleaning firms. 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 retreatment requirements.