

CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE

Shade Structures & Shade Sails



FABRIC COVERS

Like many outdoor structures, shade fabric can appear dirty over time. Apollo Sunguard shades are manufactured from High-Density Polyethylene (HDPE). This material is quite inert to dirt, moisture and some chemicals. This is great because dirt doesn't stick to the individual yarns in the fabric. Additionally, HDPE won't rot like canvas and similar products.

The owner is responsible for routine fabric maintenance, including proper cable tensioning and cleaning the cover to maintain color vibrancy. This is particularly critical in regions where dirt/sand may cause fabric abrasion. Do not use chemicals to clean the fabric. Damage caused by the use of chemicals voids the warranty. Failure to provide routine maintenance will also void the warranty.

Apollo Sunguard suggests cleaning any soot or grit from the cover at least once a year to help maintain its vibrant color. If you live in a snow area, you could schedule your cleaning around the same time you remove the cover for winter storage.

When exposed to dust and moisture, shade cloth may appear grey and look like mildew, which gives the appearance that the fabric is rotting. This is not the case; it is the dirt and moisture trapped in the knit pattern that gives this appearance. Periodic cleaning of shade fabrics will stop the build-up of dirt particles.

Cleaning may be done with a weak concentration of non-abrasive pH neutral, mild liquid dishwashing detergent (i.e., Dawn), and plain warm water. The detergent must not contain any acidic chemicals or solvents, as this can weaken the fabric's resistance to UV radiation. Apply this using a long, soft, bristled mop, brush or broom (if the cover is already removed from the unit) and rinse with a strong flow of fresh

water or a hose system used for washing external windows. Hose down and let dry before folding to prevent mildew. So do not use a high-pressure pressure washing system, which may damage the fabric. Care must be taken so that the fabric is not damaged during removal, washing and re-installation. Re-install the fabric when it is dry.

STEEL FRAME

Apollo Sunguard suggests cleaning the steel of your shade structure at least once a year, ideally during cover removal or re-installation. The owner is responsible for routine maintenance to preserve the finish and welded joints. This consists of spot painting any points of corrosion if, in the unlikely event, any should occur (regardless of cause) and keeping connected hardware secured. Failure to provide routine maintenance will void the warranty.

Check for any areas that may need a touch-up of paint. Touch-up paint is included with your unit in a matching color. Additional replacement cans of touch-up paint can be purchased through Apollo Sunguard. Please email us at info@apollosunguard.com.

