

Sunbrella® & Surlast® Cleaning Instructions

One of the best ways to keep Sunbrella® & Surlast® fabrics 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 embedded 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® & Surlast® 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.

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

- **Brush off loose dirt**
- **Hose down**
- **Prepare a cleaning mixture of water and mild, natural 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 and other similar stains.

- **Prepare a special cleaning mixture:**
 - Four ounces (half cup) of chlorine bleach.
 - Two ounces (one-fourth cup) of natural soap
 - One gallon of water
- Clean with soft bristle brush
- Rinse thoroughly
- Air dry
- Repeat if necessary

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

- * Always use a natural soap. Never detergent.
- * Water should be cold to lukewarm. Never more than 100 degrees.
- * Air dry only. Never apply heat to Sunbrella® or Surlast® fabrics.

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

- * Always use a natural soap. Never detergent.
- * Wash and rinse in cold water.
- * Air dry only. **Never put Sunbrella® or Surlast® fabrics in your dryer.**

After a thorough cleaning, Sunbrella® & Surlast® fabrics should be treated to re-establish water repellency. Sunbrella® & Surlast® fabrics are treated with fluorocarbon-based water repellency chemicals during manufacturing, and it is recommended that a fluorocarbon product be used for retreatment, such as Apco, Uniseal or Sunseal.

Sunbrella® & Surlast® fabric should be cleaned regularly before substances such as dirt, roof particles, etc. are allowed to accumulate on and become embedded in the fabric. The fabric can be cleaned without being removed from the installation. Simply brush off any loose dirt, roof particles, etc.; hose down and clean with a mild solution of natural soap in lukewarm water (no more than 100° F). Rinse thoroughly to remove soap. DO NOT USE DETERGENTS. Allow to air dry.

For more stubborn cases: Soak the fabric for approximately twenty minutes in a solution of no more than 1/2 cup of a non-chlorine bleach and 1/4 cup natural soap per gallon of water at approximate 100° F. Rinse thoroughly in cold water to remove all of the soap. Note: excessive soaking in non-chlorine bleach can deteriorate sewing threads. This method of cleaning may remove part of the water repellency and the fabric should receive an application of an air-curing fluorocarbon water repellent treatment, if water repellency is a factor.

Sunbrella® is made from 100% solution dyed acrylic fiber & Surlast® is made of 100% Solution dyed polyester which are thermoplastic. DO NOT SUBJECT TO EXCESSIVE HEAT. When either one of these fabrics are stored, they should be cleaned, allowed to air dry, and stored in a dry, well ventilated area.