

Cleaning & Maintenance Manual

Alfresco Shade is truly a market leader in their concept, design, and manufacturing.



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Introduction

Our warranty and your Alfresco Shade structure

Alfresco Shade is proud of the quality of its products. Our products are designed to look great and maintain their functionality for many years.

This guarantee is dependent on the products receiving proper, regular care and maintenance. The Alfresco Shade warranty requires you, the owner, to conduct six-monthly inspections of your structure, to regularly clean your structure with the materials recommended in this document and to operate the structure according to the instructions given.

The importance of regular maintenance

Regular maintenance of your Alfresco Shade structure is vital to maintain the attractiveness, usability and longevity of your investment. The structure should be thoroughly inspected every six months according to the guidelines given here. Regular inspections will ensure small repairs can be made which will improve the lifespan of your investment.

Looking after your investment

Your Alfresco Shade structure is a great investment for you business or home. In order to ensure the continued attractiveness and usability of your structure, regular cleaning is required as the build up of sand, salt, dirt, leaves, pollution or insects can cause permanent damage to your investment.



Sustainability

Alfresco Shades is proud that its products and structures are environmentally sustainable. The use of shade structures will help you to reduce your carbon footprint while ensuring the ongoing comfort of your family or customers.

Permanent shade structures reduce the need to use heating, cooling or lighting; and they protect against UV and reduce the risk factors which contribute to skin cancer. The materials used to construct your shade structure are, if looked after correctly, specifically designed to have a long life, reducing the manufacturing required; they are made to specifications, reducing wastage; and they require less labour and transport to move to sites and construct, making shade structures more environmentally sound than other permanent structures.

Warning

Local councils, states and regulatory bodies have different and specific regulations restricting the use of certain cleaning agents and water usage in outdoor areas.

The recommendations here should not supersede the regulations of your local body. Before undertaking any cleaning of your shade structure, contact your local authorities to ensure your actions meet your local regulations.



Fabric Structures

What constitutes a fabric structure?

Your Alfresco Shade structure can be made up of different fabric materials including:

- Monotec 370 Series Shade Cloth
- PVC-coated polyester fabric with either an acrylic or PVDF topcoat finish

The effect of the environment on fabric

The environment around your shade structure will have an effect on its look and longevity without regular maintenance. If your structure is located in an industrial area or in an area with heavy car, truck or airplane traffic, airborne pollutants and chemicals can, over time, degrade the quality of the fabric.

If your structure is located in areas of low pollution, it may be subject to degradation due to UV rays. Long-term exposure to UV can weaken the fabric, causing a loss of plasticity and a “chalky” effect.

Exposure to sea spray and sea salt should not have any significant effect on the fabric part of structures. However, high humidity could cause a build up of mould on the outside of the fabric or along the internal fibres of the fabric. However, sea salt can have a significant effect on the powder-coated and steel parts of your structure. Please refer to those sections of this manual.



Cleaning

Regular cleaning of the fabric of your structure is vital to ensure the attractiveness and longevity of your investment. To clean your fabric of dust and dirt build-up, wipe over the surface with a soft cloth. To remove stubborn dirt, dampen the cloth with water. Do not use abrasive cleaning agents or chemicals other than those specified below as these can damage the fabric surface.

If your fabric is small and requires a more thorough cleaning, remove the fabric from the structure and lay it flat on a non-abrasive surface and clean using a soft, non-abrasive brush and warm water. If detergent is required, use a diluted mixture from the approved cleaning products below.

Large structures will require cleaning by cleaning teams with specialist equipment such as ropes, pulleys and perhaps, even cherry-pickers. If your structure is not suitable for the above cleaning methods, a professional cleaning company will be able to assist you.

Cleaning – what products to use

Alfresco Shades recommend the following products to clean your fabric structure. These products can be ordered online or are available at your local marine products store. The use of non-recommended products can affect the warranty of your structure.

- Clear PVC Plastics Vuplex cleans and protects and is applied as a polish
- Woven Out door fabrics canvas & Acrylic use 303 High Tech Fabric Guard
- White or coloured translucent PVC 303 Fabric/Vinyl Cleaner
- Dishwashing Liquid and warm water can be used on any fabric surface but do not allow it to dry on the surface

Cleaning – what not to use

Do not under any circumstances use the following products to clean your fabric structure, as these will damage the material and void the warranty offered by Alfresco Shade.

- Abrasives such as powder, pastes, liquids or hard/textured sponges
- Pressurised steam or water
- Organic or “natural” chemicals such as acetone, gasoline, benzene, fuel, kerosene, perchlorethylene, terebenthine, toluene, trichloroethylene and petrol.
- All other chemicals, including ammonia, nitric acid, sulphuric acid, acetic acid, chlorhydric acid, soda, caustic soda or bleach.

Inspections and repairs

Your fabric structure should be visually inspected every six months to ensure any problems are detected and repaired early. Early detection of any small tears or frays will be much cheaper and easier to fix, preventing larger and more expensive problems later on.

When conducting a visual inspection, walk around the structure slowly, ensuring you have access to every section of the structure. Carefully inspect the fabric for:

- Tears in the membrane
- Evidence of water leaks
- Frays or wear damage along the seams or joins
- Signs of vandalism or damage from the environment (such as branches or wildlife).

An unusual event or circumstance could include:

- A severe storm with winds over 100km/h
- Falling objects, heavy snow or hail
- Floods or other rising waters
- Accidental damage or vandalism.

If your structure is subject to one of the above occurrences, a thorough inspection is required. Do not wait until your scheduled six-monthly inspection to assess the possible damage. In these circumstances, quick action and repairs will minimise the damage done to your shade structure.



Powder Coating

What is powder coating?

Powder coating is a type of coating that is applied as a free-flowing, dry powder. The coating is applied electrostatically and is then cured under heat to allow it to flow and form a “skin”.

Effects of the environment on powder coating

The environment around your shade structure will have an effect on its look and longevity without regular maintenance. Airborne pollutants and chemicals, salt, dirt and grime will build up on the powder coating so regular cleaning is required.

How to prevent rust and damage to the coating

A build up of dirt or salt can scratch the surface of the powder coating, affecting the integrity of the finish. Scratched surfaces are prone to corrosion and this will compromise the longevity of your investment.

Cleaning

Powder coating should be cleaned a minimum of every six months. If your shade structure is located in an area with heavy pollutants or salt, more frequent cleaning (every three months) will be required.

To clean the powder coating, use a soft, wet cloth or sponge to wipe away dirt and salt build up. Do not use a dry sponge or brush as this may cause micro-scratches to the surface, affecting the integrity of the finish.



Cleaning – what products to use

To clean powder coating, use:

- Water, detergent and a sponge only
- Auto polish for a shiny finish and to protect the powder coating

Cleaning – what not to use

Do not use any caustic, abrasive or solvent cleaners on your powder coated finish.

Inspections and repairs

You should inspect your shade structure every six months for scratches, corrosion or other damage to the powder coating. Walk slowly around your structure and carefully inspect each powder-coated part of the structure. Ensure you check parts of the structure that might be concealed by fabric or other materials.



Steel Components

Effects of the environment on steel

It is important to correctly look after cables, fittings; bolts are other steel components of your shade structure in order to ensure the attractiveness and usability of your investment. The environment can affect the steel components of your structure causing rust to form if incorrectly cared for. Rust can stain the fabric of your shade structure, causing unsightly and permanent marks. A built up of rust could also adversely affect the operation of your shade structure – at worst making it unsafe to use.

Cleaning – method

To clean the steel parts of your shade structure, use water and detergent and wipe over the cables and other areas with a damp cloth. Ensure you don't use a detergent that can cause damage to the fabric of your shade structure.

To protect the steel components of your shade structure from rust, only use the products recommended by Alfresco Shade:

- Lanox MX4 Anti-Corrosion Lubricant with Lanolin
- Quicksilver Corrosion Guard

Inspections and repairs

Like all parts of your shade structure, the steel components should be inspected every six months. When checking the frame look for fraying in the cables or webbing loops, distortion to the frame, corrosion, tightness of the bolts at the base of the frame or other connections or crumbling of the grout under the base plates.



Welcome to the Referral Rewards Program



Congratulations on the purchase of your new Alfresco product!

Thank you for choosing Alfresco and for supporting local manufacturing and local families.

We are delighted to have you on board as a customer and look forward to helping with your shade requirements in the future.

As a new customer, you are now invited to enjoy the benefits of our Rewards Program.



RECEIVE a \$100 Voucher for every friend you recommend who successfully places an order with us.

It's that easy. The more you refer, the more you receive!

Choose from the following great options:



DAVID JONES



Simply contact your friend and recommend a free Alfresco Design Consultation to improve their outdoor space.

Ask them to mention your name when they get in touch. As soon as the sale goes through you we send your voucher!

The more you refer the more you receive... also, refer more than 5 people and score a champagne breakfast and balloon ride for two in the Hunter Valley or a \$300 bonus gift voucher.

YES! I can think of 5 people who would benefit from an Alfresco transformation...

Name

Contact Number

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

Enjoy the rewards of being an Alfresco customer!



Alfresco Shade®

Intelligent Shade Solutions



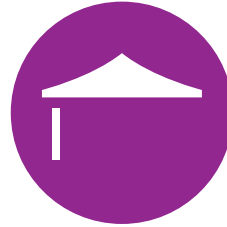
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