

Maintenance tips for outdoor fabric



Want to **protect**  
your outdoor fabric  
and give it a fresh,  
**like-new look?**

 sunbrella®

  
DICKSON®

# Why should you **take good care** of your fabric?

One of the best ways to keep your Sunbrella® fabric in perfect condition and postpone the need for deep cleaning for as long as possible is **to give both sides of the fabric a quick hosing or brushing (with a soft fabric brush) on a monthly basis.** This will eliminate most surface dirt before it penetrates deep into the fabric.

## ➤ **Mould: causes and solutions**

**In recent years, many factors have contributed to the development of mould on outdoor marine covers:**

- Increased air pollution.
- Increased restrictions on the use of certain chemicals in fabric treatments (fungicides - environmental standards).
- Increased window surface areas (by more than 50% during the past 5 years),

considerably reducing ventilation (the crystal material is completely air-tight, unlike other materials).

***On Sunbrella Plus, the waterproof coating added to the inside of the fabric can support the growth of mould if maintenance is not scrupulously carried out.***

Thanks to the rot-proof synthetic fibres used to make Sunbrella® fabrics, bothersome mould is much less likely to develop. However, mould can develop if the fabric is not well cared for. The following four elements are required for mould to develop: **humidity, heat, spores and nutrients.**

**By eliminating any one of these 4 elements, the development of mould can be avoided.**



**mould on unmaintained fabric**



# What is the best way to take care of your fabric?

Some easy, practical advice:

## ➤ Quick and easy to wash (although it is necessary to wash the inner coated side and outer textile side regularly)

Even if the inside coated surface looks clean, washing is essential because it removes the fungal spores (microscopic cells often invisible to the human eye) that are conducive to the development of mould (small black dots).

- **Brush** the fabric to remove surface dirt.
- **Spray** the fabric with cold water.
- **Prepare** a mixture of soap and water.
- **Rub** the mixture onto the fabric with a soft brush
- **Allow** the mixture to act on the fabric.
- **Rinse** thoroughly with clean water until the cleaning solution is completely removed.
- **Allow** the fabric to dry in the open air.

## ➤ More intensive cleaning to get rid of mould

For canvases that have not been sufficiently maintained and where traces of mould have appeared, a more intensive wash is possible:

- **Prepare** a solution with 1/10 bleach, 2/10 soap, 7/10 water.
- **Scrub** the fabric with the solution and a soft brush.
- **Allow** the solution to act for 15 minutes.
- **Remove** the solution using a sponge or a clean towel.
- **Rinse** thoroughly with clean water.
- **Allow** the fabric to dry in the open air.
- **Re-treatment** of fabric for water and stain resistance will be necessary.

**Other fabrics that are not Sunbrella® may not be able to withstand bleach. Make sure to protect them. To protect the environment, when using bleach, make sure to collect the dirty water which could be harmful to plants or animals.**

# Which products are best for **maintaining** your fabric?

TEX'AKTIV  
recommended by



Outdoor fabrics receive a carbon-fluoride waterproofing treatment during the manufacturing process which makes them more resistant to moisture and various types of dirt (dust, plant particles, oily deposits, etc.) and limits the development of mould. Over time, the initial treatment can become less effective. That's why it's important to clean and treat your outdoor fabric on a regular basis. Consistent maintenance will keep your fabric in excellent condition and make it last much longer! Depending on how dirty your fabric is, Tex'Aktiv can restore up to 80% of its original beauty.

## TEX'AKTIV CLEAN

### Fabric cleaner

- Deep-acting
- Powerful stain-remover



**TEX'AKTIV CLEAN** removes stains and eliminates bad odours on marine fabrics (e.g. deck chairs, cushions, and covers such as biminis, sprayhoods etc.).

The use of **TEX'AKTIV CLEAN** reduces fabrics' beading effect. After each cleaning, apply **TEX'AKTIV GUARD** to restore your fabric's waterproof properties and protect it against dirt and stains.

## TEX'AKTIV GUARD

### Fabric water-proofing

- Stain protection
- Beading effect



**TEX'AKTIV GUARD** protects fabric from dirt and stains.

This product is perfect for use on marine, outdoor furniture and solar protection fabrics. It prevents grease and water from penetrating into the fabric.

Its colourless beading effect preserves and restores your outdoor fabric's original beauty!

MADE IN



FRANCE





## Some smart tips and practical advice...

### ➤ Advice

- **As consistently as possible, clean your fabric on a monthly basis:**

a little cleaning on the inside and outside with a jet of water or brushing with a soft brush (clothing type) will remove dirt.

For the outer fabric, this will prevent premature intensive cleaning (intensive cleaning recommended every 2/3 years, depending on the environment).

- **Before folding or putting away your marine cover (bimini, sprayhood, etc.),** make sure it is completely dry and clean to avoid the formation of mould while in storage.

- **Avoid cooking under your marine cover (bimini, sprayhood, etc.)** because smoke, gas fumes and steam from cooking contain micro-nutrients that can promote the formation and development of mould on the fabric.

- **Make sure to always keep your marine cover well ventilated,** insufficient

ventilation for evacuating accumulated interior moisture will encourage the development of mould (favourable threshold: over 65% humidity). Above all, do not put a totally air-tight PVC tarpaulin over your marine cover or obstruct lateral ventilation screens that maintain proper ventilation.

- **Do not use** solvents, detergents or abrasives, or clean your Sunbrella® fabric with a high pressure machine or a washing machine.

### ➤ Tips

- **If your Sunbrella® fabric has a few wrinkles, you can iron it,** but only using the synthetic/delicate fabric setting (do not use any steam whatsoever).

- **Did you know that you can use Sunworker®** fabric to create well ventilated areas, ideal for rear enclosures and winter covers?



**DICKSON CONSTANT** • R.C.S. Lille Métropole 381 347 970 • Photos: Matthieu Langrand, Normad Citizen, Dickson Constant • Edition 2024.01 • Sunbrella® is a registered trademark and Glen Raven™ is a trademark of Glen Raven, Inc. • Dickson Constant is a Glen Raven company.



Dickson Constant  
10 rue des châteaux  
B.P. 109, F-59443 Wasquehal Cedex  
T. +33 (0)3 20 45 59 59  
europe@sunbrella.com  
dck.fr/sunbrella

Performance fabrics for:

- Solar protection
- Outdoor furnishing
- Indoor furnishing
- Marine furnishing
- Woven flooring

