

Marine Canvas Care and Cleaning



Sunbrella® fabrics are made to last through years of life on the water—and the mold, mildew, and salt residue that come with it. An essential part of maintaining durability and long-lasting performance is regular care.

When it's time for a thorough cleaning, Sunbrella fabrics can be cleaned while still on a boat or, size permitting, they can be removed for cleaning dock side.

General or Light Cleaning

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

If stubborn spills persist, you can use a diluted bleach/soap mixture or use [Sunbrella Renew™ Mold & Mildew Stain Remover](#) for spot cleaning of mildew. 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.
- Blot spill with a sponge or clean towel.
(Note: Skip this step when cleaning the coated side of Sunbrella Plus.)
- Rinse thoroughly until all soap residue is removed.
- Air dry

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.

Oil-Based Spills

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](#).

For full boat cleaning, use [Sunbrella Marine Clean™ Multi-Purpose Boat Wash](#), our biodegradable and marine-safe all-in-one solution for your entire boat.

Sunbrella Marine Clean is safe to use on a variety of marine surfaces, including: fabric, vinyl, fiberglass, metal, glass, plexiglass, painted, varnished, and wood surfaces.

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 nonSunbrella 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.

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 Cleaners

In evaluating the services of a professional cleaner, you should inquire about the firm's experience in working with Sunbrella fabrics and knowledge of cleaning and retreatment requirements.