



## User Guidelines and Care Instructions for DriZ Shade Fabric

Congratulations on your new shade sail or structure made from DriZ Shade Fabric. A great deal of careful design and refinement has gone into the fabrication of your sunshade – proper care and maintenance will ensure it retains its good looks and functionality for many years.

The following recommendations are given by the supplier of DriZ shade fabric to help you get the most out of your new shade cover.

### **DriZ Shade Fabric**

DriZ consists of high-density polyethylene (HDPE) knitted shade fabric laminated to a thin low-density polyethylene (LDPE) membrane. The fabric contains colour stabilisers and UV reduction additives to give maximum performance and longevity.

The **lifespan** of DriZ shade fabric is expected to exceed the 5 year limited warranty against degradation caused by UV rays from the sun. However this may be impacted by the level of care and maintenance it receives as well as environmental factors such as dust, pollution and natural debris, wind and rain, animals such as birds and cats and biological growth.

### **Protecting the Water-proof Membrane**

The thin clear membrane of the DriZ fabric has limited resistance to abrasion and must be treated with care. Bird and animal claws, sharp branches, high-pressure water-blasters and abrasive cleaning instruments and any rough surface are some of the items that may damage this membrane and thus destroy the water-proof integrity of the shade fabric.

*The fabric warranty does not cover damage caused by abrasion, mechanical or chemical means. Keep birds and other animals off the sunshade.*

### **Protecting Shade Sails from Weather Extremes**

We strongly encourage you to take down your sunshade ahead of extreme weather conditions especially snow, hail and very strong winds as such conditions can damage your shade structure.

If snow or hail does accumulate on the sunshade, either wash it off using a garden hose or, in the absence of strong wind, you could loosen one corner of the sunshade and allow the snow or hail to slide off.

### **Water Pooling**

Your shade sail or structure will have been designed with sufficient fall to ensure adequate water run-off. If for some reason during exceptionally heavy rain water starts pooling excessively and starts to stretch the shade fabric, this may place excessive load on the supporting structure and the shade sail and cause damage.

To remedy this situation, loosen the lowest corner of the sunshade and allow water to flow off.

*Do not disconnect any corner during high winds as this may result in injury to you and or damage to the sunshade.*



**Rainbow Shade Products NZ (2008) Ltd**

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## Care and Maintenance of DriZ Shade Fabric

Maintenance	Frequency	Importance
Annual Inspection	Recommend once a year	Your installer can be contracted to inspect and report on the condition of your sunshade and highlight any issues that may impact the life of your product before they become a major problem.
Re-Tension	As required	Shade sails which are loose are more prone to damage. Without correct tension on your shade sails, damage can occur to the fabric and support structure. Contact your installer to rectify.
Re-Stitching	As required	With time, the stitching can give way as it is affected by UV from the sun. Contact your installer to repair.
Re-Sealing	As required	With time, the sealant used after stitching the DriZ shade fabric may wear off causing leaks along seams and joins. Contact your installer to re-apply sealant. If applying this yourself, only use sealant approved by the installer.
Cleaning	Recommended each 2 - 6 months depending on conditions	<p>Regular cleaning will ensure your sunshade keeps its great new look for longer. It also prevents the build up of lichen and mould – these cannot grow directly on the shade cloth, only on dirt that is stuck to the shade fabric.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Remove any foreign objects such as foliage, branches, bird or animal droppings as soon as possible to prevent staining and other damage to the fabric</li> <li>❖ Wash your sunshade every 6-8 weeks with a garden hose using moderate water pressure. Use a <u>soft</u> broom or brush to assist</li> <li>❖ For more persistent dirt use Sugar Soap and warm water. Gently work the soap into the fabric, leave for 15-20 minutes, then rinse thoroughly with clean water.</li> <li>❖ Should mould and similar growth develop over time, we recommend spraying with Wet &amp; Forget or a similar product at a 25% concentration level. A regular spray with Wet 'n Forget will help to prevent such growth.</li> <li>❖ If the membrane does develop a leak and mildew grows around this, use warm water, sugar soap and a soft brush to gently clean as above and contact your installer for details on repairing the leak.</li> </ul> <p><b>At all times treat the water-proof membrane with great care to prevent damage that may result in leaks.</b></p>

**Note: Do not use solvents such as acetone or petrol, bleach or other chlorine-containing cleaning agents, acid wash or high-pressure water blasters on DriZ shade fabric – these will destroy the integrity of the water-proof membrane and/or the shade fabric.**



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### **Avoid Direct and Intense Heat**

Keep any intense heat source such as patio heaters and BBQ's well away from the DriZ shade fabric at all times as they will damage the fabric. Note that sparks eg from a fire place, fireworks or grinding tools, may damage the water-proof membrane and shade fabric.

### **Taking Down Your Sunshade**

We recommend that you take down your sunshade during winter months when shade is not required; this will extend the life of your sunshade.

When taking down your sunshade please take extra care to avoid dragging it across the ground or snagging it on sharp edges – this will damage the membrane and cause the sunshade to leak in future.

Take your sunshade down when it is dry, and store it in a storage bag. Dampness will not directly impact the life of the shade fabric but may weaken the thread used in the stitching.

Be sure to avoid tight folds and creases as that may damage the waterproof membrane. Please store in an area free from dampness and off the ground away from vermin.

**Note: Do not attempt to take down or re-install the sunshade in strong winds as this may cause injury to you and damage to the sunshade!**

### **Warranty**

DriZ All Weather Shade Fabric is covered by the fabric manufacturer's 5 year reducing warranty against faulty fabric manufacture and degradation due to UV radiation. This warranty does not cover damage to the fabric or membrane caused by abrasion, chemical or mechanical means, damage which may occur due to faulty design or installation of the sunshade, colour fading, or damage caused by over-vigorous cleaning or the use of damaging cleaning chemicals.

Please ask your installer for a copy of the fabric's warranty statement for more detail.

### **Insurance**

We suggest you add your new sunshade to your household insurance; that way you are covered in the unlikely event of damage.



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