



Sunshades made from HDPE Shade Fabric Owner's Manual and Maintenance Guidelines

Congratulations on your new shade sail from Z16 and E32 shade fabrics supplied by Rainbow Shade! A great deal of careful design and refinement has gone into the fabrication of your quality sunshade – proper care and maintenance will ensure it retains its good looks and functionality for many years.

- Your sunshade is made from high quality high density polyethylene (HDPE) knitted shade fabric known as Rainbow Shade Z16 or E32 imported from South Africa.
- The fabrics contain colour stabilisers and UV absorption additives to give maximum performance and longevity.
- The lifespan of this shade cloth is expected to be 10 years or more. This may be impacted by the level of care and maintenance it receives as well as environmental factors such as dust, pollution, wind and rain, animals such as birds and cats and biological growth.

To extend the life of your sunshade, and to keep it looking good for as long as possible, please follow the simple directions below.

1. **Annual Inspection** – by your sunshade installer or fabricator should give you a 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.
2. **Avoid direct and intense heat** - keep any intense heat source such as patio heaters or BBQ's away from your sunshade at all times. Note that sparks from a fire place, fireworks or open fire may damage the shade cloth.
3. **Cleaning** – 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 but only on dirt that is stuck to the sunshade.
 - Remove any foreign objects such as foliage, branches, bird and other animal droppings as soon as possible to prevent staining and other damage to the shade fabric.
 - Wash the sunshade every 6 – 8 weeks with a garden hose using moderate water pressure. Use a soft broom or brush to assist with this cleaning.
 - For more persistent dirt use warm water, Sugar Soap or dishwashing liquid and a soft brush. Rinse well with clean water after cleaning.
 - Should mould and similar growth develop over time, we recommend spraying with Wet&Forget or similar product at a 25% concentration level.
 - We recommend you apply some silicon spray to the ratchet buckles from time to time to keep them in good working order and looking near new.

Note: Do not use solvents such as acetone or petrol, bleach or other chlorine-containing cleaning agents, acid wash or high-pressure waterblasters – these will destroy the integrity of the shade fabric.



4. **Re-tension** – sunshades that are loose can damage both the shade cloth and the supporting structure. If your sunshade becomes loose it requires your urgent attention. You can re-tighten it by using the tensioners on the corners making sure all sides have equal tension. Alternatively, if you are unsure, please call your sunshade installer or fabricator
 5. **Re-stitching** – over the years the stitching around the periphery can give way due to degradation of the thread by the UV rays from the sun or excessive flapping of the sail. Once this becomes obvious it is important to have the sunshade re-stitched as soon as possible to prevent damage. Please contact your sunshade installer or fabricator to have this done. Alternatively, call us, here at Rainbow Shade, directly on 0508 665 665 and we can help put you in touch with someone who can do this for you.
 6. **When To Take Down Your Sunshade** - the Z-knitted structure of the shade fabric and the design and fabrication of your sunshade impart a high level of strength to your shade sail. However it may be damaged by weather extremes and heavy loads.
 - We strongly encourage you to take down your sunshade ahead of extreme weather conditions especially snow, hail and very strong winds. If snow or hail does accumulate on the sunshade, either wash it off using a garden hose or push it off using for example a smooth broom handle. Alternatively, in the absence of strong wind, you could loosen one corner of the sunshade and allow the snow or hail to slide off.
 - 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 avoid dragging it across the ground or snagging it on sharp edges – this may damage threads in the shade cloth which can weaken fabric integrity.
- 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!
- You can call your sunshade installer to have your sunshade taken down and re-installed as you require. Alternatively, call us, here at Rainbow Shade, directly on 0508 665 665 and we can help put you in touch with someone who can do this for you.
7. **Storing Your Sunshade** - take your sunshade down when it is dry, and store it in the storage bag we have provided. Dampness will not directly impact the life of the shade fabric but may weaken the thread used in the stitching. Please store in an area free from dampness and off the ground away from vermin.
 8. **Insurance** – we suggest you add your new sunshade to your household insurance; that way you are covered in the unlikely event of them being damaged.

If you have any questions at any time about your sunshade and looking after it, please call us on
0508 665 665

☺ **Enjoy your new weather protection product from Rainbow Shade NZ!** ☺