

Guide to Awning Fabrics

From Radiant Blinds & Awnings



100% ACRYLIC



WATER-REPELLENT



DIRT-REPELLENT



MOULD-RESISTANT



COLOUR STABLE

AWNING FABRIC CHARACTERISTICS

Awning covers are made up of technical fibres which serve a technical function, as well as a decorative purpose.

The fabric is woven from solution dyed acrylic fibres which gives high resistance of the colours to UV and the fabric has a built in treatment for high water repellency.

Although first class fabric is used in production, there are limits to the degree of perfection that can be achieved. Small irregularities such as knots, thicker and thinner sections of yarn, isolated yarn breaking,

as well as certain idiosyncrasies of awning covers that awning owners complain about occasionally but such characteristics cannot be completely eradicated even with today's advanced technologies.

Despite this, blemishes like creases, rippling in the seam and the hem area, overstretching in the hem area and honeycombing cannot be ruled out.

This has no negative impact on the quality and operating life. All these unavoidable effects are excluded as a reason for rejection.



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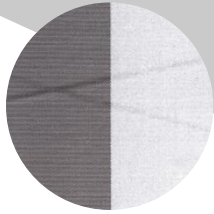


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CREASES

Can appear during the cover making process and when the fabric is folded. A dark line may become visible at the crease when viewed against the light, especially with light colours. This is because the fibres are bent when the fabric is folded, which changes the light transmitting qualities of the material.

PUCKERING

Puckering around the seam and in the main panel can appear along the side hems, around the seams and in the centre of the panel. There is a double layer of fabric at the seams which are sewn or bonded when flat. As the cover is wound onto a roller the two layers of fabric are forced to assume two different diameters, thus creating tension within the fabric.

The tension of the folding arms and the weight of the roller and/or the front profile can contribute to this effect. Puckering can also develop if a water trough forms during heavy rainfall.



RESISTANCE TO RAIN

Solar protection fabrics are impregnated with a water repellent finish and, if properly cared for and used at a pitch of at least 14 degrees, remain impervious to water during short, light rainfall.

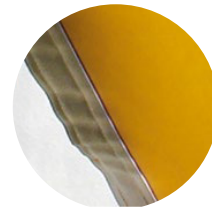
During prolonged and/or heavy rainfall, the awning must not be extended or should be retracted to prevent damage.

If the cover gets wet, the awning must be extended again, as soon as possible, in order to let it dry to prevent marking of the fabric.

Awnings are not designed to be used in sleet, snow and heavy downpours of rain.

STRETCHING OF SIDE HEMS

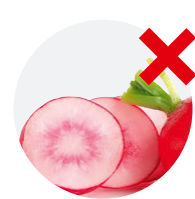
In most cases an active tensioning system keeps the fabric almost permanently taut. Although seams and hems provide reinforcement, they also have to withstand the most strain. When the cover is rolled up, the seams and hems lie on top of each other which increase the pressure and tension even more. This results in increased strain and elongation. As a consequence the side hems may sag slightly when the awning is extended.



TAKING CARE OF YOUR AWNING COVER

Dust and dirt are best removed when the cover is dry by using a soft brush. Remove leaves, twigs and other debris immediately. Do not roll the awning fabric with debris in it as this could damage or tear the fabric.

Small marks or stains should be removed using lukewarm water and a standard, preferably liquid detergent suitable for delicate fabrics (5 per cent soap solution: water temperature max. 30 degrees). Rinse the cleaned area thoroughly with water and treat with a commercial fabric waterproof spray solution. Please be aware that this measure will not restore the cover to its original state.



COLOUR FASTNESS AND QUALITY

The manufacturing process determines whether a fabric keeps its brilliant colour for many years to come. The fabrics are solution dyed. This means that the colour pigment is stored in the fibres during the spinning process. They are then spun into a yarn. The finished yarn is therefore fully saturated with dye (carrot). Acrylic fabrics have been on the market for decades and are the best possible proof that colours can remain brilliant for a very long time. The traditional method is to spin the yarn first and then dye it. We call this yarn/piece dyeing (radishes). With this process, bleaching of the colour cannot be ruled out.