



Cleaning & Maintenance

Thank you for inviting Aristocrat Shade Products to be part of your home. The life and good looks of your awning depends a great deal on the way you use it, and how you care for it. For long continuous enjoyment please follow these products care guidelines. Even though your shade system is virtually maintenance free, simple care guidelines will protect and significantly increase the life of your awning or solar screen. Awnings are an investment - one that deserves the protection of regular cleaning. A system that is cleaned regularly is easier and faster to maintain than one that is cleaned infrequently. With only a minimum amount of attention your awning will remain at it's finest for many years.

Fabric Care

The fabrics used on the majority of Aristocrat Shade Products solar control products are a solution-dyed teflon impregnated acrylic fabric and are guaranteed not to fade. Scotchguard® protection provides a high water repellency. It gives a lasting protection even after repeated use. Do not roll up an awning when wet unless this is unavoidable and then unroll as soon as possible for air drying. Although the fabric is mould, mildew, and rot resistant this procedure is necessary because atmospheric pollution deposits on the surface of the fabric can mould and mildew under damp conditions. The thread used in our sewing process is a poly cotton blend. Polyester is for strength and the cotton content allows the thread to swell and fill the needle holes.

Fabric Cleaning

Just what does proper maintenances involve? Actually, not very much. The main objective is keeping as much dirt and grime off them as possible. The fabric can be cleaned without removing it from the frame. Brush off, with a clean soft household broom any loose soil. Hose down your awning fabric (top & bottom) with clean water, we recommend you do this on a hot dry day in order for the fabric to completely air dry before retracting it. We suggest cleaning the awning at least twice each year, in the spring after pollen has spread and again in the fall after the leaves have fallen. Do not use harsh or strong detergents or scrub too vigorously with a cleaner. Never dry the fabric using heat or steam press. Keep shrubbery and vines away from the system, as many plants contain an acid which can be harmful.

Frame Cleaning & Maintenance

The frames on all Aristocrat Shade Products systems are made of non-corrosive materials. We recommend that you regularly hose off the framework and spray silicone or WD-40 on the moving parts after the unit is dry. Avoid spraying the silicone on the fabric since this may cause discoloration.

For your Information . . .

Awning fabrics used on our systems are high-performance products - automation, quality checks and elaborate coating on the fabric itself have left nothing to chance. This being said the high quality standards that the fabric is upheld to does have some inherent characteristics that have caused the layman some concern. These characteristics are inherent in the nature of a woven fabric made of acrylic fiber and have no effect on it's performance.

Veining or Crazing

Originated during the sewing and folding of the awning cover. These may appear, especially in light coloured fabrics, as a dark line when seen against the light. These marks will go away with time and do not reduce the effectiveness of the system.



Wrinkling or Puckering

Seen most often on either side of the joining seam. Appears to be bunching up, this is caused by the overlapping of the double fabric on the joint seams and consequently causes different tensions when being wound in on itself.



Waviness

Seen most often in the middle of panels. This is a combination of the fabric wanting to go in one direction and the coating wanting to go in a different direction.

All of these fabric characteristics are normal and appear to a different degree in nearly all awning covers. They do not affect the durability, quality and effectiveness of your awnings.

Pitch Adjustable (P/A)

If your awning has the adjustable pitch (P/A) option, raise or lower the pitch ONLY 10° or 12 inches maximum at a time per side to avoid putting excessive stress on the arms. Do not raise this unit past 0° or the flat position. Do not force or yank your awning when raising or lowering them, do it gradually.

Center Supports Systems over 18' in width will require a center support to keep the round (roller) tube straight. The center support may discolour the fabric over time. This is considered normal wear and tear and is not covered by warranty.

Motors are self-contained and require little or no maintenance. If your motor goes out of adjustment or fails to function properly, contact your local Aristocrat Shade Products dealer from whom you purchased the awning or use the instruction sheet provided by them to reset the limits.

Sun & Wind Operators It is strongly recommended to disable the sun control function when your awning will be left unattended for an extended period of time. An awning can freeze up in winter months causing structural damage.

Miscellaneous The valance on your retractable awning is a separate piece of material. Because it is more exposed to the weather you may wish to remove it during the winter. Simply remove the end cap from the front rail and slide the fabric and spline off. To avoid creasing the fabric simply remove the spline and store the fabric rolled up rather than folded. Be sure to place it in a dry, well ventilated area away from rodents, a concrete floor is not a good place. Never store in a plastic bag, this can trap moisture and promote mildew. Be sure to remember for spring time where it has been stored.

Do Not: Project the awning(s) beyond the limits, patio awning arms are not designed to extend in a straight line. There must always be a bend at the elbow of the arm for strength and tightness of the fabric. Make sure that the fabric is rolling off the top of the roller tube

Do Not: leave your awning out in the rain. Retractable awnings will withstand moderate rainfall. They are not designed to withstand heavy rain. If the rain is heavy enough to create puddles in the fabric, the fabric may stretch. If very heavy accumulation occurs, there may be further damage to the frame.

Do Not: Allow birds to nest on your awning.

Do Not: Extend your awning in the presence of strong winds, snow or rainstorms. Your awning can withstand up to 40 kmph. A good rule of thumb is, if the awning is fluttering in the wind and it is uncomfortable reading your newspaper, take the awning in with you.

Do Not: Leave your awning unattended, when you are not at home, retract it. When you retire for the night retract the awning.

Do Not: Wash your awning with a soap or harsh solution, or scrub too vigorously with an abrasive cleaner, as it will take off the 3M Scotchgarding and possibly destroy the fabric.

Do Not: Cook food or have fires within reach of the awning, as fire, smoke and grease cause damage.

