

# ABIDE

I N T E R I O R S

## CARING FOR YOUR OUTDOOR CUSHIONS

Outdoor furniture cushions are made from specific materials to ensure that they can cope with environmental factors like rain, sun and dust. Like anything there are a variety of options and different fabrics offering different advantages. We choose to use Sunbrella.

**Sunbrella** - A high performance outdoor fabric used extensively worldwide in the outdoor furniture and marine industries as well as for awnings and umbrellas. Sunbrella is what is known as a "solution dyed" material.

### CLEANING OUTDOOR CUSHIONS

One of the best ways to keep any outdoor fabric looking good is to address any spills as soon as they occur and keep the surfaces clear of dirt and grime. This will stop it being embedded in the fabric and restrict mildew growth as it requires dirt to grow on. This is required of anything left outdoors.

**Teak Oil Leaching** – All of our solid wood outdoor furniture is hand-crafted from A-Grade Teak wood. The high oil content in this timber helps to prevent the furniture from splitting, warping, moving and checking. Teak oil leaching or transference onto fabrics that are in constant contact with the timber is expected and is not deemed a fault. These teak oil marks are wholly cleanable by following the methods outlined in this document.

There are methods of deeper cleaning, removing stains and maintaining your cushions which we have outlined below;

### SUNBRELLA FABRIC CARE CLEANING SUNBRELLA FABRIC

All Sunbrella® fabrics are engineered with the highest levels of design and performance. When cleaning Sunbrella cushions we highly recommend keeping the cushion slips on the cushion, do not remove the fill or the foam. This makes it far easier to clean and helps maintain the integrity of the cushion, the cover and the zips.

You may find that small amounts of dirt, dust or even some spills will require no more than a brush or a hose off if you get to them early enough. But for easy maintenance of your Sunbrella fabric that may require a little more attention than a just a brush or a hose:

1. Brush off loose dirt.
2. Spray on a cleaning solution of water (not hot) and mild soap.
3. Use a soft bristle brush to clean from one side to another, not in circles.
4. Allow cleaning solution to soak into the fabric.
5. Rinse thoroughly until all soap residue is removed. A hose is recommended.
6. Air dry.

## REMOVING MOULD AND MILDEW

Sunbrella fabrics do not promote mildew growth, however if mildew has formed on dirt or other foreign substances it can be easily cleaned. To remove mould or mildew:

- Prepare a solution of 1 cup of bleach and a quarter of a cup of mild soap per 4 litres of water (not hot).
- Spray on entire area and allow to soak into the fabric for 15 minutes.
- Clean entire surface area with a sponge, clean towel or very soft bristle brush.
- Rinse thoroughly to remove all soap residue. A hose may be used.
- Air dry.

For severe mould/mildew growth, bleach quantities may be increased. It is best to clean the entire surface area of the fabric to avoid water rings.

## SUNBRELLA STAIN GUIDE

Sunbrella has produced a guide to treating any number of specific stains such as sunscreen, wine, coffee and many more. You can find this guide here along with some instructional videos. [Sunbrella Stain Chart](#).

You can find more videos on cleaning and a whole lot more on Sunbrella's YouTube channel.

<https://www.youtube.com/user/sunbrella/videos>

## RETREATING SUNBRELLA FABRIC

Sunbrella fabrics are treated with a proprietary water and stain repellent finish that is designed to last for several years, but may require replenishing after a thorough cleaning or significant use. Sunbrella recommends 303® Fabric Guard. Abide Interiors does not currently stock this product but it is available from several Australia retailers and found with an internet search.

### APPLYING THE TREATMENT:

- Clean Sunbrella fabric, using one of the cleaning methods.
- Allow Sunbrella to completely air dry.
- Apply retreatment in a well-ventilated area following instructions on the container.

### HELPFUL HINTS:

- With spills and stains get in quick and try the hose first
- When cleaning a cushion, clean from seam to seam, instead of rubbing the fabric in a circular motion on the stain. This method, will help avoid water rings.
- We do not recommend removing the fabric from the foam when cleaning. Cleaning the Sunbrella fabric while on the foam is easy and preferable.
- Sunbrella air-dries very quickly, do not machine dry. A warm environment is preferable.
- Protect the area around your Sunbrella fabric when using a bleach solution, bleach may discolour non-Sunbrella fabrics and other surfaces. Always rinse Sunbrella thoroughly to completely remove bleach and other cleaning products.
- Do not use a steamer or iron set to steam on Sunbrella fabric.