

## Sunbrella Care & Cleaning - Awning/Marine

One of the best ways to keep Sunbrella brand fabrics looking good and to delay the need for deep or vigorous cleanings is to hose fabrics off on a monthly basis with clear water. This practice will help prevent dirt from becoming deeply imbedded in the fabric and eliminate the need for more frequent vigorous cleanings. In most environments, a thorough cleaning will be needed every two to three years.

When it's time for a thorough cleaning, Sunbrella fabrics can be cleaned while still on an awning frame or a boat or, size permitting, they can be removed for cleaning in a washing machine or bath tub.

When cleaning Sunbrella fabrics, it is important to observe the following:

- \* **Always use a mild soap** i.e. Ivory Snow, Dreft or Woolite. Never detergent.
- \* Water should be cold to lukewarm. **Never more than 100 degrees.**
- \* Air dry only. **Never apply heat** to Sunbrella fabrics.

If you are cleaning Sunbrella while still on an awning frame or a boat, follow these simple steps:

- \* Brush off loose dirt.
- \* Hose down.
- \* Prepare a cleaning mixture of water and mild soap (no detergents).
- \* Use a soft bristle brush to clean.
- \* Allow soap to soak in.
- \* Rinse thoroughly.
- \* Air dry.

If stubborn stains persist, you can use a diluted chlorine bleach/soap mixture for spot cleaning of mildew, roof run-off or other similar stains (see our Stain Chart for specific recommendations).

### Prepare a special cleaning mixture:

- \* Eight ounces (one cup) of chlorine bleach.
- \* One gallon of water.
- \* Allow mixture to soak for up to 20 minutes.
- \* Air dry.
- \* Two ounces (one-fourth cup) of mild soap.
- \* Clean with soft bristle brush.
- \* Rinse thoroughly – rinse again.
- \* Repeat if necessary.

Remember to protect the area around your Sunbrella if using a bleach solution. Carpet or other fabrics that are not Sunbrella may have an adverse reaction to the bleach.

### Re-treating the Fabric

As part of the finishing process, Sunbrella fabrics are treated with a fluorocarbon finish, which enhances water repellency. This finish is designed to last for several years, but must be replenished after a thorough cleaning. Based on test results, **Glen Raven recommends 303 High Tech Fabric Guard™** as the preferred re-treatment product for Sunbrella fabrics. Fabrics should be retreated after thorough cleaning or after five years of use.

### Applying 303 Fabric Guard™ formerly know as High Tech Fabric Guard™

303 is now part of Gold Eagle Products and more info is available at [Gold Eagle Website](#)

303 should be applied to Sunbrella fabrics after each thorough cleaning, which typically removes the original fluorocarbon finish and reduces the fabric's water repellency. After cleaning the fabric, **allow it to air dry completely** and then apply 303 in a thin, even coat. On a frame or stretched over 2 or more clothes lines to allow air to both sides. In direct sun at 80+ degrees provides the best results. Temperature of 75 deg and/or humid conditions increases drying time and reduces water repellency. After allowing the first coat of 303 to air dry, a second thin, even coating of 303 may be applied. Two light coatings are more effective in restoring fabric water resistance than a single heavy coating. A 15-ounce bottle provides coverage of up to 50 square feet of lightweight fabric. **Always apply 303 to clean fabric.**

**NOTE: DO NOT ALLOW 303 FABRIC GUARD TO GET ON VINYL WINDOWS**

See [www.Sunbrella.com](http://www.Sunbrella.com) for additional cleaning information and specific stain recommendations.

## **Care of Vinyl & Vinyl Coated Materials**

**Vinyl and rubber fabrics are damaged by most petroleum or oil-based solvents. The oil solvents remove the plasticizer in vinyl film fabric and cause stiffening.**

### ***For Light soiling:***

A solution of 10% household liquid dish soap with warm water applied with a soft damp cloth will remove most soiling.

If necessary, a solution of liquid cleanser and water applied with a soft bristle brush. Wipe away the residue with a water-dampened cloth.

### ***For Heavier soiling not solved by above method:***

A commercial vinyl cleaner (many automotive, marine, household varieties available) may be helpful. 303 sells several Vinyl/Fabric Convertible Top Cleaners

Dampen a soft white cloth with a solution of household bleach (sodium hypochlorite); 10% bleach, 90% water.

Rub gently.

Rinse with a water to remove bleach concentration.

If necessary, allow a 1:10 diluted bleach solution to puddle on the affected area or apply with a soaked cloth for approximately 30 minutes. Rinse with a water to remove any remaining bleach concentration.

NOTE: You should try this or any other method on an inconspicuous spot before using it on the original stain/soiling.

303 Aerospace Protectant (or other similar vinyl treatments) provide UV protection and shiny / slicker surface that allows dirt to be removed more easily than non-treated surfaces.

### **Note:**

**Be sure to read and follow label directions carefully!**

**Care MUST be exercised when using fabric treatment products to ensure they are used on the materials they are intended. In some cases using the product incorrectly or applying to fabrics not intended will harm the materials.**

**For example 303 High Tech Fabric Guard is to be used to restore water repellency to natural or synthetic fabrics. 303 HTFG should not be used on vinyl, rubber, or plastics as they will remove plasticizers and make the materials brittle.**

**303 Aerospace Protectant applied to synthetic or natural fabrics will remove or reduce the water repellency.**

**Silicone based treatments are NOT recommended as they leave an oily residue that attracts and holds dirt which will shorten the life of fabrics.**

## **Specific Instructions from the 303 Technical Service Rep**

**NOTE:** To get best results with 303 Fabric Guard (or any fluoropolymer fabric protector product) one must give particular attention to:

**USING ONLY ON A THOROUGHLY CLEAN TEXTILE:** Any soiling residue or cleaning agent residue that is NOT removed from the textile interferes with the bonding and performance of the fabric protector. With outdoor fabrics this means a thorough cleaning and a double-thorough rinsing (cleaning agent residues do NOT rinse off easily). On carpeting, upholstery, furniture fabric, this means cleaning with a machine extractor and, when the fabric is judged to be "clean", going over it one more time with water only (to remove cleaning agent residue). On garments, proper cleaning means a normal cleaning/rinsing cycle followed by at least one additional rinse cycle.

**USING ONLY IN WARM TEMPERATURES:** Fabric protector chemistry likes heat. This means using such products in warm weather...on a hot day and in full sun is best. 70°F is at the low end of marginal (OK but not good) conditions. But one can get good results on outdoor fabrics if the clean, dry textile is positioned in, and heated up by, the sun. Below 70° or 70° & humid....wait for a better day. The quicker you can get the treated fabric to dry and cure, the better bonding and performance is attained. This is why after cleaning and rinsing one allows textiles to dry completely before treating.

**Hint:** Avoid using Fabric Guard immediately after retrieving your solution from a cool basement. Best to warm the treatment solution by leaving it out in the sun prior to use.

**SUSPEND THE FABRIC TO BE TREATED:** Do not lay the fabric on a solid surface for treatment. It is best to suspend the fabric on it's frame, over a clothes line or two or more lines to allow air flow on both sides of the fabric.

**Safety:** When using fabric protector products, follow all label instructions, warnings and cautions. Please read product label instructions fully before use. Note, with 303 High Tech Fabric Guard all label warnings and cautions no longer apply when the treated fabric has dried.

Yours truly,  
303 PRODUCTS, INC.  
R. K. Dyer  
800 223-4303



## 303® High-Tech Fabric Guard™ Instructions

**303® High Tech Fabric Guard™:** Powerful enough to protect fabrics in the harshest environment...outdoors. Yet 303® High-Tech Fabric Guard™ is safe for the finest fabrics, wool, silk, and fine leathers - including suede. On outdoor fabrics, 303® Fabric Guard restores lost water repellency and stain repellency to factory new levels. 303® Fabric Guard resists soiling, impedes mildew formation and helps protect against the sun's harmful UV rays. Proper maintenance with 303® Products will add to the life of your fabrics and finish, save you money, and...It's Easy! Size: 16oz. Spray Bottle

**BEFORE USING 303® HIGH TECH FABRIC GUARD™ (HTFG):** Use only on cleaned material. Follow manufacturer directions to remove all soiling, stains, soap or other cleaning agent residue. 303 Fabric Cleaner, 303 Aerospace Cleaner, 303® Cleaner & Spot Remover and 303 Convertible Top Cleaner rinse residue free and are recommended. **Test for Colorfastness:** Spray a hidden area with 303® HTFG. Wipe the sprayed area with a white absorbent cloth. If any color rubs off, **DO NOT USE**. 303® HTFG will not change the look, feel or breathability of treated fabric. Non-toxic and odorless when dry.

**Directions:** Material should be thoroughly cleaned and dry. Spray until evenly wet, overlapping spray areas. Allow treated fabric to dry thoroughly before use. Protect adjacent areas from over spray. Immediately wipe up any over spray before it dries. Note: **303 HTFG can be applied with an approved solvent type sprayer, brush or roller. Not for vinyl, clear vinyl, plastics, rubber, fiberglass or imitation suede.**

**WARNING: COMBUSTIBLE:** Keep product and treated article (until dry) away from heat, sparks or open flame. **WARNING:** Contains petroleum distillates. Use only as directed. Avoid breathing vapors. Use only in well ventilated areas. Keep persons and pets out of area until treated fabric has dried. Do not use in enclosed areas. (if using indoors use an approved MSHA/NIOSH respirator for removing organic vapors. Use fan to force solvent vapors out of the area.) Harmful or fatal if swallowed. Intentional misuse through inhalation can be fatal. Do not spray into eyes, mouth or onto skin.

**NOTE:** Once treated article has dried, warnings do not apply.

**FIRST AID:** SKIN CONTACT; wash with soap & water. Eye Contact; Immediately flush eyes with large amounts of water for at least 15 minutes. If swallowed do not induce vomiting. Call physician immediately.

**KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN, STORE AT 60°F TO 90°F.**

Safe and Effective  
PROVEN PERFORMANCE!

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# 303 Fabric Guard

## Application Instructions

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**Protect fabric from ultraviolet light and restore water repellency.**

### 303 FABRIC GUARD FEATURES

- Excellent water and oil repellency
- Superior stain resistance & soil release characteristics
- Controls fading and resists mildew formation
- Does not alter color, feel, or breathability of fabric
- Environmentally safe (no ozone depleting solvents)
- Non-toxic and odorless when dry

### APPLICATION

303 Fabric Guard is best applied in two light applications instead of one heavy dose. Choose a warm day (50-105°F) and spray in a well ventilated area. Avoid heat, sparks, smoking, or open flame during application (303 Fabric Guard is flammable until dry). Also avoid contact with skin and eyes (protective clothing is recommended).

Before application, test the colorfastness of the material or carpet by spraying in an inconspicuous area and wiping the area while wet to see if the color transfers. Clean material to be treated and let dry completely before applying 303 Fabric Guard. Spray evenly holding the nozzle tip 8 to 12 inches from the material. Only mist the exposed side of your material. **DO NOT SATURATE!** Allow the solvent to evaporate between applications. On fabrics the final application should dry and cure for 8 to 12 hours. When used on carpeting, a 12 to 24 hour drying period is best.

Avoid getting over-spray on wood finishes, vinyl, plastics and metals. Any over-spray should be wiped up immediately with a dry absorbent cloth.

**TIPS FOR NEW FABRIC:** During the fabrication process the factory finish can be worn causing the new fabric to "wet", most commonly at the seams. To prevent or correct seam leaks, treat the seam with 303 High Tech Fabric Guard.

### COVERAGE

A 16 oz. bottle of 303 Fabric Guard covers up to 100 square feet on most fabrics. A gallon covers up to 1000 square feet if applied with proper equipment (recommended use of a low volume air-less spray system equipped with even flat fan tip). Other applicators, such as paint sprayers and hand pumped garden sprayers, can be used but coverage diminishes. Expect greater coverage on lighter weight fabrics and less on heavier fabrics and carpeting.

303 Fabric Guard is endorsed by Glen Raven Mills for use on Sunbrella fabric.

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