



# Solar Shade USA Shade Structure Care and Maintenance

## Steel Frame Maintenance

### **Cleaning / Finish**

- We suggest cleaning the steel of your structure at least once a year. The steel may be cleaned with a mild dish washing liquid and a sponge.
- Check for any areas that may need touch up paint. To repair painted surfaces, sand damaged area with sandpaper and wipe clean. Mask area and paint with color matching paint and allow paint to dry. Recoat area with color matching paint if required.

### **Fasteners**

- Inspect for loose fasteners. Tighten if necessary.
- Inspect for missing, worn or broken fasteners. If any missing, worn or broken fasteners are found, refer to the installation instructions for proper replacement fastener.

## Shade Fabric Maintenance

### **General Fabric Information**

- Solar Shade USA's shade fabric is an industrial knitted textile made from high density polyethylene, and combines Ultra Violet (UV) stabilizers and color additives. During the manufacturing process imperfections may occur in the fabric. These imperfections are cosmetic only, and have no impact the life or the serviceability of the shade fabric.
- The shade fabric should be inspected on a quarterly basis for tightness and to check for any signs of wear or tear damage.
- If the shade fabric is exposed to severe wind, snow or ice loads there may be a need for the fabric to be re-tensioned after the event ceases, so the fabric maintains the required tension to perform as designed and avoid any possibility of mechanical damage taking place as a result of excessive flapping of loose fabric.
- If your shade fabric is damaged by any mechanical means, such as bird strike, windblown debris, projectile impact such as stones thrown from mowers, vandalism or chemical exposure, it should be repaired as soon as possible to prevent further damage.

### **Cleaning**

- Solar Shade USA recommends cleaning the shade fabric at least once a year to remove any dirt or grime. Use a mild dish washing liquid with a low pressure water hose and a soft scrubbing brush. We do not recommend the use of high pressure water, to blast the fabric clean.
- Care should be taken to avoid chemicals that may contain bleach, or other agricultural chemicals containing Sulfur or Halogens (i.e. Chlorine or Bromine). These chemicals may attack the UV stabilizers within the shade cloth, thus reducing the life of the product and negating the warranty.

## Fabric Removal / Re-Tensioning

Solar Shade USA structures are designed for 90mph wind loads. However, to improve the lifespan and performance of the shade fabric, it is recommended that you remove the fabric before any severe storms (excess of 75mph winds) as well as before the winter months and store until the snow season is over.

### **Removal**

- Loosen the turnbuckle lock nut and spin away from the turnbuckle body.
- Hold the turnbuckle jaw to stabilize and turn the body of the turnbuckle to loosen and relieve the tension off of the fabric.
- Do the same for all perimeter columns with turnbuckles.
- Remove the fabric from the turnbuckle, but keep the shackle on the fabric corner to prevent edge ropes from pulling into fabric cuffs.
- Remove the (8ea) quick links connecting the 4 fabric panels together.
- Remove the fabrics from the center hub, but keep the shackle on the fabric corner.
- Fold the fabrics up and store.

### **Re-Tensioning**

- Attach the fabrics to the center hub.
- Attach the (8ea) quick links connecting the 4 fabric panels together.
- Attach the fabrics to the shorter "middle" perimeter columns by connecting the shackle back to the turnbuckle / chain.
- Attach the fabrics to the taller "corner" perimeter columns.
- Start with the "middle" columns - hold the turnbuckle jaw to stabilize and turn the body of the turnbuckle to tension the fabric. Tighten the turnbuckle lock nut up against the turnbuckle body.
- Do the same for the "corner" columns.

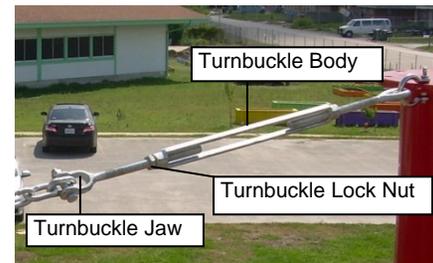


Fig 1

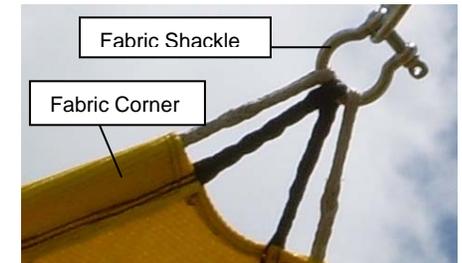


Fig 2