



FURNITURE CARE & MAINTENANCE

Natural Wicker

Natural, organic wicker is usually made from rattan, a tropical climbing palm that can be split into thin strips and woven. It should be used only on covered porches or indoor areas of your house with no direct exposure to the elements. Otherwise, over time the natural fiber, painted or not, will deteriorate and break down. It can, however, be scrubbed as needed with a mild detergent using a soft brush. It can also be helpful in maintaining the surface and structural integrity if exposed to the effects of weather. Using a paint sprayer will be the most effective method to cover and fill the woven surface when painting.

Synthetic Wicker

Synthetic wicker is made from high density polyethylene from trusted ISO certified brands like Viro and Rehau. It is then extruded or pressed, and woven onto an aluminum frame. Synthetic wicker is remarkably durable and many are completely resistant to the exposure from all weather conditions. The commercial quality fiber used is formulated with a UV resistor to prevent discoloration from sun exposure as well. They can be left outside, uncovered through all seasons if necessary. Synthetic wicker should be cleaned with a mild detergent using a soft brush. Rinse well to remove all residues. Synthetic wickers should not be painted.

Aluminum

Extruded aluminum outdoor furniture will not rust. It is lightweight as it is hollow in form. Beginning and end of season cleaning is recommended and should generally be adequate to maintain the condition of your furniture. Cleaning the furniture using a soft brush and a mild detergent will be sufficient. It is perfectly acceptable to use a silicone spray or auto wax to further protect the surface of finished aluminum but it is not necessary. It is most important to wash your furniture well before storing it for the winter to prevent the buildup of corrosive pollutants to act on the surface over the winter months. Covering your furniture if left outside is recommended but not necessary. Any covers used should be of a breathable material.

Teak

Teak is a deciduous hardwood tree from the highlands of southeast Asia. It does not come from tropical rain forests. Teakwood has a naturally high oil content which makes it both stable and resistant to rotting when exposed to climatic extremes. First grade teak is naturally the most expensive but it makes the cleanest, most stable and most desirable product. Second and third grade teak are also highly saturated with teak oil which will give it great endurance, but they generally contain more imperfections such as worm holes and knots. All grades of teakwood will weather in a similar way in an outdoor environment. If left unsealed, teak will weather to a silvery gray. The time it takes to weather will vary with exposure to different climatic conditions, but it can happen within a 3-9 month period. A slight checking or lifting of the grain, even small cracks, may occur during this process it is completely normal as the wood expands and contracts. Teak oils and sealers can be used to restore teak colors. In addition light sanding may be required in some areas to smooth out the teak surface prior to refinishing.

Umbrellas

Patio umbrellas are made from the same kind of synthetic materials that outdoor fabric is made from. They will have a high resistance to rain and sun damage. It is important to close umbrellas during heavy rain and high winds to prevent the slight chance of blowing over. It is also important after a storm has passed to open the umbrella to prevent dirt or debris from collecting in the folds of the umbrella's canopy. When storing an umbrella, whether in the winter or for other reasons, make certain it is clean and dry. Always dry umbrellas in an open position.



CUSHION CARE & SUNBRELLA® FABRIC CLEANING

Outdoor cushions are covered with outdoor polyester and synthetic fabrics that are not damaged by summer weather and can be left outside all season. It is recommended to cover cushions with a towel if you have on suntan lotion. The fabric, and sun lotions, when hit by the sun's ultra-violet rays cause a chemical reaction that may stain the fabric. Treated fabrics will resist mildew as well when exposed to moisture. It is important to turn the cushions on their ends when exposed to a heavy soaking. Quality cushions are designed to drain well and dry quickly. Certainly protecting any cushion from rain and sun when possible will prolong its life.

One of the best ways to keep Sunbrella® fabrics looking good and to delay deep or vigorous cleaning is to properly maintain the fabrics. This can be accomplished by simply brushing off dirt before it becomes embedded in the fabrics, wiping up spills as soon as they occur or spot cleaning soon after stains occur. Sunbrella fabrics have a special finish that enhances water repellency. The finish is designed to last for several years of normal use, but may be refreshed after a thorough cleaning or extended use. Heavy cleaning for stubborn stains and mildew as, mildew may grow on dirt and other foreign substances that are not removed from the fabric.

General or light cleaning

- Brush off any loose dirt.
- Prepare a cleaning solution of 2 ounces (1/4 cup) mild soap per gallon of lukewarm water (less than 100°F/38°C).
- Use a sponge or a soft bristle brush to clean.
- Allow cleaning solution to soak into fabric.
- Rinse thoroughly to remove all soap residue.
- Allow fabric to air dry.

Machine washing

Machine wash in cold water (less than 100°F/38°C). Depending on wash load size, use normal amounts of mild laundry soap and add 8 ounces (1 cup) of bleach. Allow fabric to air dry.

Professional cleaners

DO NOT dry clean Sunbrella fabrics. In evaluating the services of a professional firm, you should inquire about the firm's experience in working with Sunbrella fabrics and knowledge of cleaning and re-treatment requirements. Protect the area around your Sunbrella fabric when using bleach solution bleach may discolor non-Sunbrella fabrics. Always rinse Sunbrella thoroughly too completely remove bleach. Sunbrella fabric air dry's very quickly. Do not put in dryer. If fabric has some wrinkling, use an iron if necessary, but only on the synthetic setting. As some irons exceed the recommended 100°F/38°C temperature on the synthetic setting, test a small inconspicuous area before ironing entire piece. DO NOT use a steamer or iron set to steam setting.

*Synthetic fabric heat settings normally do not exceed 150°F/66°C.

Spot cleaning

- Apply a light mist of mild soap and water using a spray bottle.
- Work the solution into the stain by lightly scrubbing the area with a sponge or very soft bristle brush.
- Rinse thoroughly to remove all soap residue.
- Blot excess moisture with a clean, soft towel or sponge.
- Air dry, Repeat steps 3 and 4 until all soap residue is removed.

To clean mildew, or other stubborn stains:

Prepare a solution of 8 ounces (1 cup) of bleach and 2 ounces (1/4 cup) of mild soap per gallon of clean water.

- Spray on entire area and allow to soak into the fabric for 15 minutes.
- Remove stain with a sponge, clean towel or very soft bristle brush.
- Rinse thoroughly to remove all soap residue.
- Allow fabric to air dry.
- If stain and/or mildew are severe, bleach quantities may be increased.