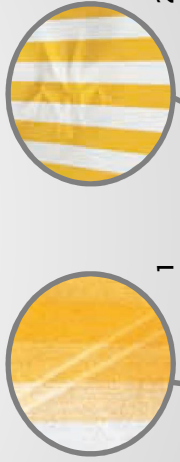


Characteristics of Awning Fabrics

Awning covers are industrially manufactured textile products which are intended to play both a functional and a decorative role. They are high-performance products that meet strict technical requirements and undergo extensive laboratory testing. Criteria such as water impermeability, rigidity, dirt/water-repelling properties, resistance to tearing and tear propagation, colour fastness and numerous other characteristics are defined, assessed and guaranteed for each fabric type by the manufacturer. Although only first-class, quality-controlled fabric is used in awning production, there are limits to the degree of perfection that can be achieved. Awning owners occasionally complain about certain imperfections in the fabric but such characteristics cannot be completely eradicated even with today's technology.

Crease

can appear during the cover making process and when the fabric is folded. A dark line may become visible at the crease when viewed against the light, especially with light colours. This is because the fibres are bent when the fabric is folded, which changes the light transmitting qualities of the material. (Figs. 1, 2)



Puckering around the seams and in the main panel

Puckering around the seams and in the main panel can appear along the side hems, around the seams and in the centre of the panel. There is a double layer of fabric at the seams, which are sewn or bonded when flat. As the cover is wound onto a roller the two layers of fabric are forced to assume two different diameters thus creating tension within the fabric. The tension of the folding arms and the weight of the roller and/or the front profile can contribute to this effect. Puckering can also develop if a water trough forms during heavy rainfall. (Figs. 3, 4, 5)



Water impermeability / resistance to rain

Sunshade fabrics are impregnated with a water-repellent finish and, if properly cared for and used at a pitch of at least 14°, remain resistant to rain during short, light rainfall. During lengthy spells of rain and/or heavy rainfall, the awning must not be extended or should be retracted to prevent any damage. If the cover gets wet, the awning must be extended again later so that it can dry to prevent marking of the fabric.

Tension-induced stretching of the side hems

In most cases an active tensioning system keeps the fabric taut almost permanently. Although seams and hems provide reinforcement, they also have to withstand the most strain. When the fabric is rolled up, the seams and hems roll up on themselves, which increases the pressure and tautness still further. They are therefore put under a lot of tension and this can cause them to stretch slightly. As a consequence side hems may sag slightly when the awning is extended. (Fig. 6)

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