



# 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

- Lubricate the threads of the tensioner rod with WD-4D or similar. Be sure not to get on fabric.
- Loosen the tensioner lock nut and spin towards the center of the structure.
- Turn the tensioner rod nut counter clockwise to relieve the tension off of the fabric. The traveler will move along the tensioner rod towards the center of the structure. (fig 2)
- Do the same for all end arm tensioners.
- Remove the fabric attachment shackles from the tensioner blocks, but keep the shackle on the fabric corner to prevent edge ropes from pulling into fabric cuffs.
- Fold the fabric up and store.

### Re-Tensioning

- Lubricate the threads of the tensioner rod with WD-4D or similar. Be sure not to get on fabric.
- Attach the fabric attachment shackles to the tensioner blocks.
- Turn the tensioner rod nut clockwise to tension the fabric. The traveler block will move towards the end of the arm. (fig 1)
- Tighten the tensioner lock nut up against the end of the arm to lock in place. (fig 1)
- Do the same for all end arm tensioners.

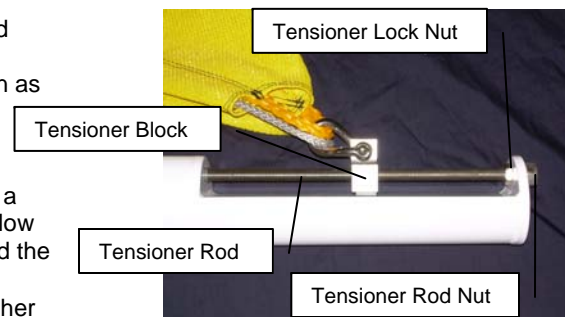


Fig 1



Fig 2