

Sunbrella® Upholstery Care and Cleaning



One of the best ways to keep Sunbrella fabrics looking good is to brush off dirt and debris before it becomes embedded in the fabric and to address messes and spills soon after they occur. The quicker you clean spills, the easier they can be to remove.

Try this first... With a new spill on your Sunbrella fabric.

- Blot (don't rub) liquid spills with a clean, dry cloth.
- For oil-based spills, apply an absorbent such as cornstarch, then remove with a straight edge.
- Spray on a mild cleaning solution of soap and water or use [Sunbrella Clean™ Multi-Purpose Fabric Cleaner](#).
- Rinse the fabric thoroughly to remove all soap residue.
- Air dry.

Try this next... If your first try doesn't get the spill out.

Though Sunbrella fabrics can be used both outdoors and in, your cleaning methods should differ slightly based on the fabrication and manufacturing of the furniture. We recommend using the appropriate cleaning instructions for your application.

Outdoor Upholstery

Cleaning Removable Fabric

Hand Washing

Soak fabric in a solution of 1/4 cup mild soap per gallon of lukewarm water. Use a sponge or very soft bristle brush to lightly agitate the spill. Then rinse thoroughly to remove all soap residue and allow fabric to air dry.

Machine Washing

Some removable casings can be washed in the washing machine, however consult the furniture manufacturer before removing the casing as cushion construction may vary. To wash, first close all zippers. Machine wash in cold water on the delicate cycle with normal amounts of mild laundry detergent. For severe mold or mildew, add 1 cup of bleach. Allow fabric to air dry.

Cleaning Non-Removable Fabric

Prepare a solution of 1/4 cup mild soap per gallon of lukewarm water, or use [Sunbrella Clean Multi-Purpose Fabric Cleaner](#). Use a soft bristle brush to clean, allowing the cleaning solution to soak into the fabric. Rinse thoroughly to remove all residue and allow fabric to air dry. For tough, colored stains, use [Sunbrella Erase™ Spot & Stain Remover](#).

For best results when cleaning upholstered pieces, clean the entire surface area of the fabric, from seam to seam, instead of rubbing the fabric in a circular motion on the spill. This method, along with an extractor, may be required in order to avoid water rings and residue.

Oil-Based Stains

If a stubborn oil-based stain persists after cleaning, use [Sunbrella Extract™ Oil Based Stain Remover](#) or treat with a strong degreaser and rinse thoroughly.

Specific information on cleaning is available in our [Cleaning Guide](#).

Retreating Sunbrella Fabrics

After repeated thorough cleanings, or extended use and exposure, you may choose to refresh your fabrics with an appropriate retreating agent. We recommend [Sunbrella Restore™ Fabric Protector & Repellent](#), available in the United States, and [Tex'Aktiv](#), available internationally.

Applying a retreatment:

- Clean Sunbrella fabric, using one of the cleaning methods outlined.
- Allow fabric to completely air dry.
- Apply retreatment outdoors in a well-ventilated area following instructions on the container.

Helpful Hints

While Sunbrella fabric offers excellent protection against stains, full removal is not always guaranteed if spills are not addressed promptly.

Avoid scrubbing, hard bristle brushes or any other abrasive cleaning method.

Sunbrella should only be allowed to air dry.

Protect the area around your Sunbrella fabric when using bleach or other chemical solvents that may discolor non-Sunbrella fabrics. Always rinse Sunbrella thoroughly.

Bleach can have harmful effects on the natural environment around you. Please follow all safety and environmental precautions according to the bleach label.

If fabric has some wrinkling, use an iron on the synthetic setting. As iron temperatures may vary, first test a small inconspicuous area before ironing the entire piece.

DO NOT use a steamer or an iron set to the steam setting.

Mold and Mildew

Sunbrella fabrics do not promote mildew growth, however, mildew may grow on dirt and other foreign substances if not removed from the fabric.

To remove mold and mildew:

- Prepare a solution of 1 cup of bleach and 1/4 cup mild soap per gallon of water or use [Sunbrella Renew™ Mold & Mildew Stain Remover](#).
- Spray on entire area and allow to soak into the fabric for 15 minutes.
- Clean entire surface area with a sponge, clean towel or very soft bristle brush.
- Rinse thoroughly to remove all soap residue.
- Air dry.

For severe mold and mildew growth, bleach quantities may be increased. We recommend using our [Sunbrella Renew Mold & Mildew Stain Remover](#).

Specific information on cleaning is available in our [Cleaning Guide](#).

Indoor Upholstery

- Apply a light mist of mild soap and water using a spray bottle or use [Sunbrella Clean Multi-Purpose Fabric Cleaner](#).
- Work the solution into the stain by lightly agitating the entire surface area of the fabric, moving from seam to seam, with a sponge or a very soft bristle brush. Avoid scrubbing, and do not use a hard-bristled brush or anything that will abrade the fabric.
- Rinse the entire fabric thoroughly to remove all soap residue.
- Blot excess moisture with a clean, soft towel or sponge.
- Blot or wet-vacuum excess water from the entire surface area of the fabric, moving from seam to seam.
- Air dry. Repeat rinsing and blotting until all soap residue is removed.
- For tough, colored stains, use [Sunbrella Erase Spot & Stain Remover](#).

Machine Washing

Some removable casings can be washed in the washing machine, however consult the furniture manufacturer before removing the casing as cushion construction may vary. To wash, first close all zippers. Machine wash in cold water on the delicate cycle with normal amounts of mild laundry detergent. Allow fabric to air dry.

Oil-Based Stains

If a stubborn oil-based stain persists after cleaning, use [Sunbrella Extract Oil Based Stain Remover](#) or treat with a strong degreaser and rinse thoroughly.

Specific information on cleaning is available in our [Cleaning Guide](#).

Seam-To-Seam Cleaning

For best results when cleaning upholstered pieces, clean the entire surface area of the fabric, from seam to seam, instead of rubbing the fabric in a circular motion on the spill. This method, along with an extractor, may be required in order to avoid water rings and residue.

Professional Cleaners

Before enlisting the help of a professional cleaner, we recommend inquiring about a firm's experience working with Sunbrella fabrics and knowledge of cleaning and retreatment requirements.

Cleaning Guide



This chart contains our recommended cleaning methods of Sunbrella® fabric for common stains. For best cleaning results, spills and messes should be cleaned as soon as they occur. Set-in residue may require professional cleaning. After cleaning with the below solutions, always rinse fabric thoroughly and allow to air dry.

Spill/Mess	At-Home Solution	Sunbrella Solution
BBQ Sauce Beer Berries (Fresh, Jam, or Juice) Coffee Cola Tea Wine	Combine 1 teaspoon (4 ml) of dishwashing liquid per 1 cup (250 ml) of water.	Sunbrella Clean™ Multi-Purpose Fabric Cleaner For any remaining discoloration, use Sunbrella Erase™ Spot & Stain Remover
Bird Droppings Urine Vomit	Combine 1 teaspoon (4 ml) of dishwashing liquid and 1 teaspoon (4 ml) of white vinegar per 1 cup (250 ml) of water.	Sunbrella Clean Multi-Purpose Fabric Cleaner and white vinegar
Blood	Combine 1 teaspoon (4 ml) of dishwashing liquid and 1 teaspoon (4 ml) of hydrogen peroxide per 1 cup (250 ml) of water.	Sunbrella Clean Multi-Purpose Fabric Cleaner and hydrogen peroxide For any remaining discoloration, use Sunbrella Erase Spot & Stain Remover
Butter Grease Mayonnaise Motor Oil Oil Paint (Wet or Dried) Salad Dressing Sunscreen Tomato (Fresh, Sauce, or Juice)	For fresh stains, apply cornstarch as an absorbent, remove excess with a straight edge, and clean up residual with 1 teaspoon (4 ml) of dishwashing liquid per 1 cup (250 ml) of water. Follow with a strong degreaser.	Sunbrella Clean Multi-Purpose Fabric Cleaner followed by Sunbrella Extract™ Oil Based Stain Remover
Charcoal	Vacuum to remove excess and treat with isopropyl alcohol. Then clean with 1 teaspoon (4 ml) of dishwashing liquid per 1 cup (250 ml) of water.	Sunbrella Clean Multi-Purpose Fabric Cleaner and isopropyl alcohol
Chewing Gum Crayon	Treat with isopropyl alcohol. Then clean with 1 teaspoon (4 ml) of dishwashing liquid per 1 cup (250 ml) of water.	Sunbrella Clean Multi-Purpose Fabric Cleaner and isopropyl alcohol
Chocolate	Combine 1 teaspoon (4 ml) of dishwashing liquid per 1 cup (250 ml) of water.	Sunbrella Clean Multi-Purpose Fabric Cleaner For any remaining oil residue, use Sunbrella Extract Oil Based Stain Remover
Dye Transfer	Combine 1 teaspoon (4 ml) of dishwashing liquid and 1 teaspoon (4 ml) of isopropyl alcohol or bleach per 1 cup (250 ml) of water.	Sunbrella Renew™ Mold & Mildew Stain Remover

Spill/Mess	At-Home Solution	Sunbrella Solution
Ink Nail Polish	Treat with volatile solvent (100% acetone). Then clean with 1 teaspoon (4 ml) of dishwashing liquid per 1 cup (250 ml) of water.	Sunbrella Clean Multi-Purpose Fabric Cleaner and acetone For any remaining discoloration, use Sunbrella Erase Spot & Stain Remover
Ketchup Mustard	Combine 1 teaspoon (4 ml) of dishwashing liquid per 1 cup (250 ml) of water. For any remaining discoloration, use a solution of bleach water or a bleach pen.	Sunbrella Clean Multi-Purpose Fabric Cleaner For any remaining discoloration, use Sunbrella Erase Spot & Stain Remover
Lipstick/Cosmetics	Combine 1 teaspoon (4 ml) of dishwashing liquid per 1 cup (250 ml) of water. Then follow with a strong degreaser.	Sunbrella Clean Multi-Purpose Fabric Cleaner followed by Sunbrella Extract Oil Based Stain Remover
Mildew & Mold	Combine 1 teaspoon (4 ml) of dishwashing liquid and 1 teaspoon (4 ml) of bleach per 1 cup (250 ml) of water. A stronger percentage of bleach may be necessary for severe mildew.	Sunbrella Renew Mold & Mildew Stain Remover
Pencil	Vacuum, then clean with 1 teaspoon (4 ml) of dishwashing liquid per 1 cup (250 ml) of water.	Sunbrella Clean Multi-Purpose Fabric Cleaner
Rust	Treat with a rust remover such as CLR® and rinse thoroughly.	Treat with a rust remover such as CLR® and rinse thoroughly.
Shoe Polish (Liquid or Wax)	Apply cornstarch as an absorbent, remove excess with a straight edge. Then clean with 1 teaspoon (4 ml) of dishwashing liquid per 1 cup (250 ml) of water. For wax polish, cover stain with towel and apply heated iron to remove surface debris before proceeding with above steps.	Sunbrella Clean Multi-Purpose Fabric Cleaner followed by Sunbrella Extract Oil Based Stain Remover
Tree Sap	Treat with solvent such as Murphy® Oil Soap, turpentine, volatile solvent (100% acetone) to soften and remove as much of the tree sap as possible. Repeat as necessary. Then clean with soap and water and rinse thoroughly to remove solvent.	Volatile solvent (100% acetone) and follow with Sunbrella Clean Multi-Purpose Fabric Cleaner
Wax (Candle)	Cover stain with towel and apply heated iron to remove surface debris. Then clean with 1 teaspoon (4 ml) of dishwashing liquid per 1 cup (250 ml) of water.	Sunbrella Clean Multi-Purpose Fabric Cleaner followed by Sunbrella Extract Oil Based Stain Remover

For effective use of Sunbrella Cleaning products, always follow the directions printed on the product packaging. Use only as directed.

After cleaning with these recommended solutions, rinse fabric thoroughly and allow to air dry.

For larger cleaning projects, multiply suggested cleaning solutions to fit your needs.