



HOW TO GET THE BEST FROM YOUR TARPAFLEX CANVAS TARPAULIN

Canvas is a popular option for those requiring a traditional tarpaulin; it is aesthetically pleasing, and offers heavy-duty, reliable coverage. However there are certain points that should be borne in mind in order to ensure the best performance from your canvas tarpaulin. These factors will also help to get the maximum lifespan from your sheet.

Damage to canvas tarps generally occurs as a result of one of the following factors: moisture, incorrect storage, UV degradation, rodents, harsh cleaning and also bird droppings. The following points should therefore be adhered to as far as is possible, in order to prevent such issues:

- If the tarpaulin is to be stored, ensure it is bone-dry; otherwise mould can grow very quickly
- remove any bird droppings or dirt before storing, to prevent any inherent acidity affecting the canvas. It may also be prudent to use rodent baits in areas where canvas is stored, to prevent pests from damaging the sheet.
- Avoid storing canvas on concrete; concrete can encourage mould growth, have an acidic effect on canvas and also lead to insect infestation.
- Do not use detergents to clean the canvas; these will break down and remove the waterproofing agent the tarp has been treated with. Similarly, do not use bleach.
- Do not use warm or hot water, or water under pressure; again these will prematurely remove the waterproofing treatment.
- Avoid using hard brushes to clean the sheet, as these are abrasive to the canvas. Where possible use a very soft-haired brush or broom to prevent damage to the material.

Our canvas tarpaulins have been wax-proofed and dyed, and as such there can be a risk of colour transference upon application - please ensure you take caution to eliminate any risk of staining to your person, clothing or objects to be covered.

We recommend 'weathering' the canvas before first use. The tarpaulin should be thoroughly wetted and left to dry, in order to shrink the canvas and tighten it at any stitched points, eg. seams and hems. Canvas can shrink by up to 4%, and so we always recommend that this initial procedure is conducted before first use, both to avoid shrinkage once the tarp may have been fitted but also to stop the stitch-holes leaking.

As our canvas tarpaulins have been wax-treated they are water-resistant; however, after prolonged exposure to water, these sheets will require reproofing. You may begin to notice that wet patches remain on the canvas after rain, the underside of the canvas gets wet, or the tarpaulin begins to feel dry and dusty; these are all indications that re-proofing may be required. Treatments such as Nikwax, Canvak and Granger's Spray-On can be purchased online and from DIY/surplus/farm stores and the like.

It is important to remove any dirt before proofing, to allow even and thorough application of the treatment. You should also treat any mould or mildew beforehand, as otherwise this will be sealed in by the treatment.