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SHADE FABRIC COMPARISON

	Shade Structure using woven shade cloth	Tensile fabric structure using Architectural PVC fabric
Design Life	2-5 years	15-25+ years
Fire Performance	Extremely poor Melting and toxic fumes Flames spread	Excellent AS1530 Will not propagate flame If ignited, flame will not spread
Ability to retain tension and shape	Poor , unlimited stretching properties	Excellent , fabric is pre-stressed during manufacture and holds designed shape over fabric life
Fabric Cleanability	Extremely poor , due to its open weave dirt becomes trapped and mildew forms, cleaning is difficult	Excellent , simple wipe over with water, most fabrics self clean
Appearance of sail after 2 years	Extremely poor , sagging and staining a high possibility even if cleaning has been attempted	Excellent , if cleaned annually no difference from installed appearance
Method of construction	Stitched with thread. Seams become weak points thread chafes fabric as it flaps	High frequency welded, seams retain minimum 99% fabric strength
Tension on fabric skin	Low	High
Initial economic outlay	Very low	Medium
Performance in high winds, hail, snow, etc	Very Poor	Excellent
Resistance to dirt and mildew	Poor , open weave properties of fabric will result in dirt and mildew buildup	Excellent , coatings on fabrics include self cleaning chemicals similar to Teflon frying pans
Resistance to flapping	Poor	Excellent
UV properties	Poor . Initial UV figures are for fabric not installed. When installed cloth opens up to, commonly 70% to 75%.	100% UV on waterproof fabric. PVC mesh 86% to 92%