



THE A-Z SHADES INFO PACK

Understand shade, *before you buy it.*

How good shade actually works — the fabric, the shapes, the engineering that holds it all up — plus exactly what happens when you call us. Written for anyone planning shade over a home, business, school or childcare.

Why good shade *works*.

Shade looks simple — fabric on posts. Underneath, it's real materials science and real structural engineering. This pack explains both, so you know exactly what you're buying.

01

Blocks up to 99% of UV

Premium knitted shade fabrics shield the radiation that causes sunburn and skin cancer — the reason schools and childcare centres treat shade as duty of care.

02

Cooler, not just darker

Knitted shade cloth breathes: hot air escapes up through the weave instead of being trapped, so the space under it is genuinely cooler — not an oven with a lid.

03

Rain protection, if you want it

Waterproof PVC membrane is the other tool: it blocks rain and UV entirely, but doesn't breathe. Different job, different fabric — many projects use both.

04

Protects assets too

Cars, play equipment, outdoor furniture and paint all age dramatically faster in direct Australian sun.

05

Engineered, not decorative

Wind — not weight — is the controlling force on a shade structure. Every post, cable and footing is sized for the wind region of your specific site.

06

A building-cost alternative

Architectural fabric covers large areas for a fraction of the cost of a roofed extension — and goes up in days, not months.

What shade cloth *actually is.*

IN PLAIN ENGLISH

Fishing line + film, knitted

Quality shade cloth is knitted HDPE: monofilament yarns (think fishing line) knitted together with tape yarns (thin film strips). The monofilament has "memory" — it springs back to shape — which is what keeps a tensioned sail looking crisp for years.

WHY KNITTED, NOT WOVEN

It won't unravel

A woven fabric frays from any cut or point load. A knitted fabric locks around damage and keeps its strength — exactly what you want in something stretched drum-tight outdoors for a decade.

THE COOL FACTOR

It breathes

Heat rises out through the knit, so the air underneath stays cooler. It's also why rain passes through shade cloth — breathability and waterproofing are opposite properties in fabric.

THE OTHER FAMILY

Waterproof PVC membrane

A coated architectural membrane that seals out rain completely. It needs fall built into the design so water runs off, and it turns a patio or courtyard into a true all-weather room.

What separates good fabric from cheap fabric?

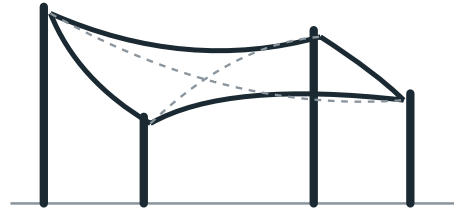
The yarn and the knit — not the colour chart. Premium architectural fabrics carry 5–15 year UV warranties, hold their colour, and keep their strength after years of sun. Cheap fabric goes brittle, fades and sags inside a couple of summers.

Why sails look *like that*.

None of it is styling. Every curve in a well-made sail is structural — and every "flat" sail you've seen flapping itself to death is missing them.

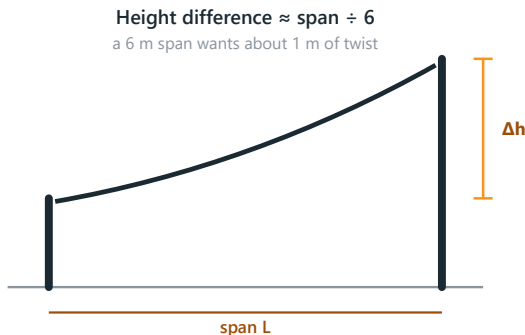


Flat sail — flutters in wind

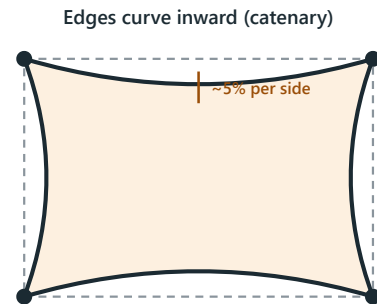


Hypar — high / low corners twist it drum-tight

Flat fabric flutters, and flutter is what destroys sails and hardware. Twisting the sail — alternating high and low corners — pre-tensions the fabric in two directions so the wind can't get it moving. A twisted sail also shades roughly 20% more than a triangle of the same size.



The rule of six: for a taut twist, the height difference between high and low corners should be about one sixth of the span.



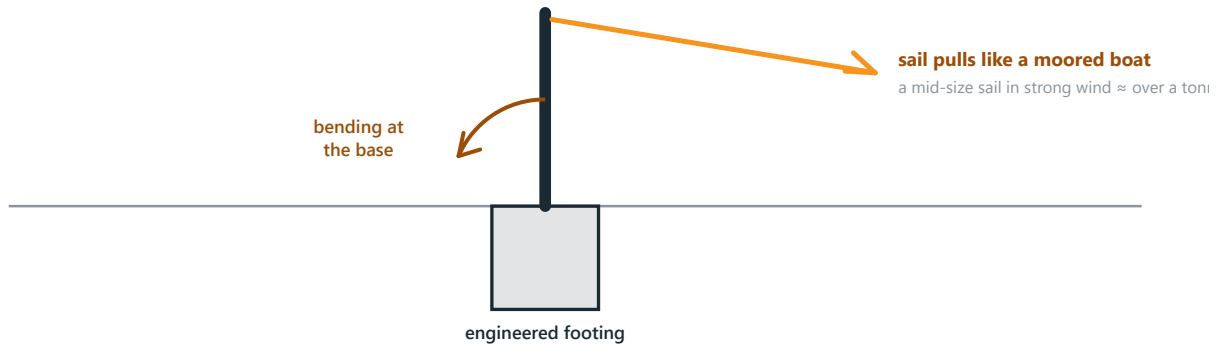
The edges must curve inward so the perimeter cable can tension the fabric — plan the sail larger than the shade you need.

And the shadow moves.

Shade almost never falls directly under the sail — it tracks the sun through the day and the seasons. Part of our site measure is working out where the shade must fall at the times you'll actually use the space.

What's holding it *all up*.

Wind is the enemy of every shade structure, and uplift — not weight — is the load that matters. Here's where that force goes.



A sail loads its posts at a single point, high up — so the post fights a huge bending moment at its base. That's why posts look "oversized" and why each one stands in an engineered concrete footing, often around a cubic metre of it.

ATTACHING TO BUILDINGS

Walls need engineering too

Most houses were never designed for a sail's pull. Fixing a corner to a home means an engineered wall plate into solid structure — or a post to take the load instead. It's exactly what our engineering step checks.

IN THE HEM

Cables & hardware

A stranded stainless cable runs inside the sewn hem, corner to corner, and does the actual pulling — sized to the span (roughly 6.5 mm up to 6 m spans, 10 mm to 10 m, 13 mm beyond). Corners are webbing-reinforced and fitted with marine-grade 316 stainless hardware, sewn with UV-stable thread.

CODES & APPROVALS

Wind-region certified

Every site in NSW sits in a wind region, and structures are engineered to it. Many residential sails are exempt development; where approvals or certificates are needed, we handle them.

CARE & LIFESPAN

What maintenance looks like

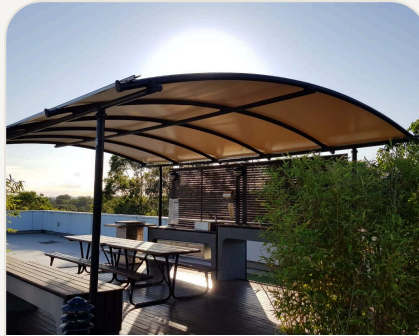
Very little: an occasional hose-down, and a re-tension check every few years. Fabrics carry 5–15 year warranties; the steel outlasts the fabric. We also repair sails other companies installed — usually down in the morning, re-sewn in our own factory, and tensioned back up the same day.

Six tools — each for *a different job.*



Shade Sails

Custom tension-membrane sails on 3–6 anchor points — the classic, sculptural way to shade any space.



Waterproof PVC

Architectural PVC membranes that keep the rain out entirely — an outdoor room in all weather.



Hip-Roof Structures

Post-supported hip and flat roofs — an affordable way to cover and protect large areas.



Cantilever Umbrellas

A single offset column and tensioned canopy — maximum shade, minimum posts in the way.



Retractable Systems

Shade on the hot days, open sky when you want it — wire-guided canopies that glide back.



Custom Fabrication

Walkways, curved canopies and one-off spans, engineered and made to suit your site.

From first measure to *final tension*.

01

Free on-site measure

Call, book online or scan the code on the back page. We visit your site, measure up, assess fixing points and talk through how you use the space.

02

3D design

A senior designer prepares two to three tailored options in our shade-design software — you can also start the conversation yourself with our online 3D Design Studio.

03

Engineering & approvals

Approvals, certificates and wind-load engineering, handled for you. Many residential sails close to the home are exempt development in NSW — we'll confirm for your site.

04

Precision manufacture

Your shade is cut, welded and finished in our own Sydney factory, matched exactly to the approved design.

05

Install + guarantee

Installed by our own licensed team to a 100% on-time delivery guarantee — then tensioned, checked and photographed before we leave.

Your free quote, same day.

After the site visit you'll have a written quote for each design option — provided the same day as your measure.

1800 742 336

RECENT WORK

3,000+ jobs and *counting*.

A few recent installs across Sydney — homes, businesses, schools and childcare. Every one measured, designed, made and installed by our own team.



Shade sail, Kellyville

HOME



Poolside privacy sail

HOME



Shade sail, Willoughby

HOME



Blue & red sails,
Granville

BUSINESS



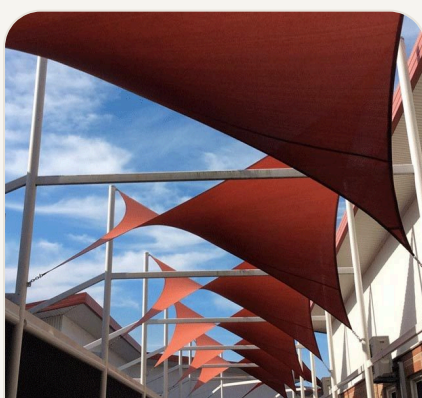
Town-centre sails, Dee
Why

BUSINESS



230 m² on T-posts,
Rouse Hill

BUSINESS



Terracotta sails,
Glenmore Park

EDUCATION



165 m² multi-sail,
Bexley

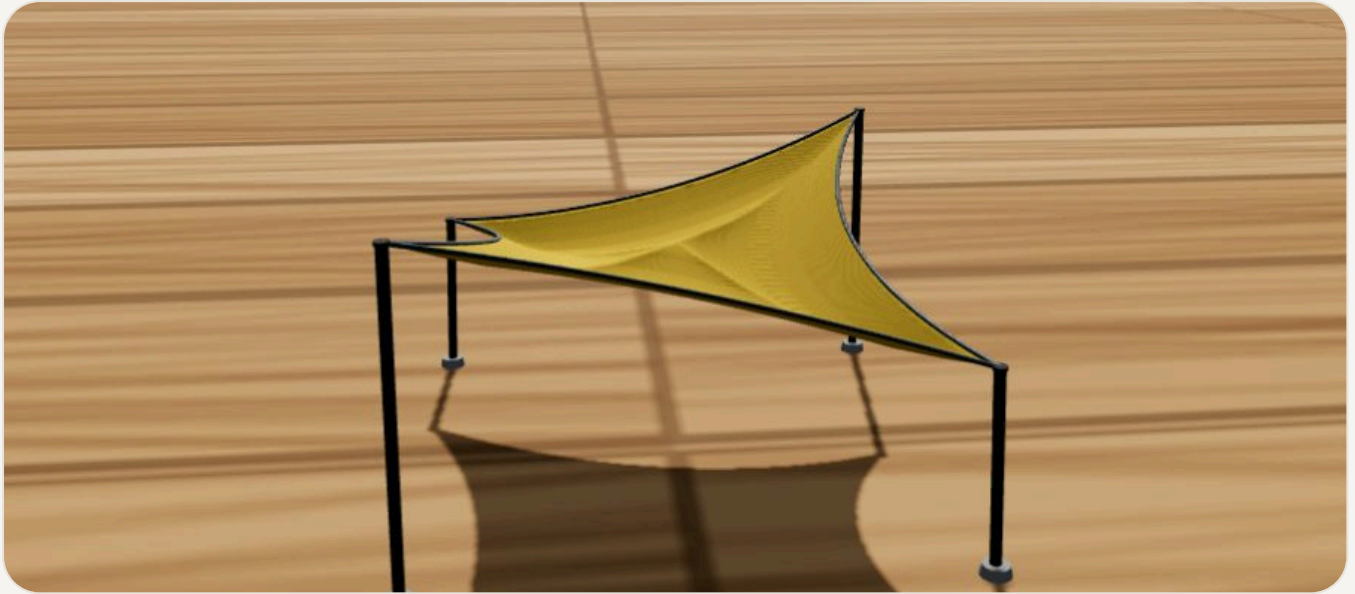
EDUCATION



Childcare shade,
Merrylands

EDUCATION

Design your shade *before we build it.*



Build it in 3D. Pick a sail, hip roof or cantilever umbrella; set the size, corner heights, fabric range and colour.

Try it in a real setting. Place your design in a life-size 3D backyard, poolside, driveway, balcony, café, carpark or playground — with true-to-scale measurements.

See it in augmented reality. On your phone, place your exact design life-size in your yard through the camera and walk around it.

Save your design pack — then bring it to your free measure & quote and we'll price the exact design.



SCAN TO OPEN THE
STUDIO

Things people *actually ask*.

Why does a shade sail twist?

The twist (a "hypar") pre-tensions the fabric in two directions so wind can't flutter it. Flat sails flap, and flapping is what wears out fabric, stitching and hardware. The twist is also why rain sheds off instead of pooling.

Will it keep the rain off?

Knitted shade cloth breathes, which means rain passes through it — that's the trade-off for a cooler space. If you need a dry area, that's a waterproof PVC membrane or a roofed structure; many projects combine both.

Why is the sail smaller than the area it covers?

The edges must curve inward — about 5% of the span per side — so the perimeter cable can tension the fabric. A "6 × 6 m" sail is closer to 5.4 m across at mid-edge, and the shadow moves with the sun. We size for the shade you need, not the fabric dimensions.

Why are the posts and footings so big?

A tensioned sail pulls on its posts like a moored boat — over a tonne in strong wind on a mid-size sail. The post resists that force as leverage at its base, which is why posts are steel and each one stands in an engineered concrete footing.

Do I need council approval?

Often not — many residential shade sails qualify as exempt development in NSW. Where your site does need approvals or engineering certificates, we prepare and handle them as part of the job.

How long will it last?

Quality fabrics carry 5–15 year UV warranties and the steelwork outlasts the fabric. Maintenance is an occasional clean and a re-tension check every few years — and when a sail eventually retires, the same posts usually take its replacement.



READY WHEN YOU ARE

Book your free measure & quote.

CALL

1800 742 336

EMAIL

info@azshades.com.au

HOURS

Open 7 days

MOBILE

0466 300 086

FACTORY

40 Bridge Street,
Rydalmere NSW 2116

SERVICE AREA

Sydney & all of NSW



BOOK A FREE QUOTE



DESIGN YOURS IN 3D



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