

SHADE SAIL INSTALLATION GUIDE

You will either have purchased a Shade Sail from our pre-designed range or a bespoke product. Based on this choice there are two different ways that we recommend installing the Shade Sail; if you are fitting a Shade Sail from our existing range, it is suggested that the sail and anchorage points are installed to suit. Whereas, when purchasing a bespoke Shade, we recommend that the anchorage points are in place prior to measuring your site.

A correctly tensioned Shade Sail is the key to its longevity, so when choosing hardware it is important take the specifics of each product into consideration.

PART A : PLANNING

Before anything else, it is important to consider the site - proper planning now will ensure that your Shade Sail performs the way it was intended for years to come:

1. Consider if you need angle your Shade Sail to provide water run off, for materials with a higher water resistance we recommend a 20° angle
2. Where are your electrical/telephone/water/gas supplies in relation to your proposed site? Consider the services both above and below ground. Damage to services can be dangerous and expensive to correct.
3. Where will you attach your Shade Sail? There may be existing structures you can use (e.g. pergola/sundeck, large tree, fence post), or you may want to install posts to create a free standing structure. Exercise care in using structures such as the walls of your house - during poor weather and strong winds, the loads placed by your Shade Sail can be enormous, and should not be underestimated.
4. Analyse the surrounding for potential sources of damage to your shade. Trees will drop leaves on your sails and increase dirt build up. Shade Sails should also be kept clear of open flames, as such we recommend that BBQs / chimneys are kept clear of even FR fabrics.

PART B : MEASURING

Which order you do these in depends on whether you have a pre-designed sail, or have had a bespoke Shade Sail made for you.

1. PRE-DESIGNED SHADE SAILS

In order to fully tension the shade sail, a gap is required between the sail and fixing points for rigging screws, and catenary curves are designed in to the sides of the sail. To determine the fixing gap for one of our pre-designed Shade Sails, you will need to plan out the location of your fixing points relative to the sail's size. A 5m x 5m sail represents the measurements from corner to corner, and NOT from post to post, so it takes a small amount of working to decide where these need to be.

Once the position of your Shade Sail has been decided, allow approximately 240mm diagonally away from each corner for placement of your anchorages. It will not hurt to leave more space between the anchorage and the sail, as this can be accommodated by a larger turnbuckle or even extra fixings if required, however if the gap is too small then inadequate tension will be able to be maintained through the shade sail, it will sag and it will not look as good as it could have.

2. BESPOKE SHADE SAILS

Simply measure between your fixings and fill in the measurement form on our website

www.shade-solutions.com and we will make allowances for fixings at the design stage of the manufacturing process.

In order to manufacture a quality shade sail, we need to obtain accurate measurements, measured to the centre of the fixing points (eye bolts, wall plates, etc.), after they have been installed. It would not be possible to properly create your shade sail without these, and we strongly advise that you spend the necessary time to obtain them thoroughly and correctly. Please see our associated measurement form for more information on this.

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PART C : INSTALLATION

POSTS

If your Shade Sail is being supported by posts they either need to be installed vertically, or they can be installed slanting away from the centre. The posts should be installed with a secure footing, making sure that 1/3 of the post is secured in the ground; in firm ground lay 100mm of coarse gravel underneath the base of the post, and in softer ground lay 100mm of concrete.

Once the post is ready to be secured fill the hole in with pre-mixed concrete ensuring it is packed tightly, leave this to set for at least 48 hours before removing bracing and fitting the Shade Sail anchorage points.

If using wooden posts, they should be at least 150mm in diameter.

ATTACHMENT

ANCHORAGES

Exercise care in using structures such as the walls of your house - during poor weather and strong winds, the loads placed by your Shade Sail can be enormous, and should not be underestimated, so ensure that your structure is adequate to handle such loads. ***This stage of the installation is critical. You should ensure all fixing points are structurally sound and if unsure, obtain independent advice from a builder or engineer.***

FIXINGS

Once all mounting points have been installed and posts have set, you can fit the sail. Using your chosen fixing accessories, you can begin to fit you Shade Sails. Once all mounting points have been installed and posts have been allowed to set for 48hrs, you can fit the sail. Use the fixing accessories which best suit your own installation: in most cases this will be an M6 or M8 rigging screw (turnbuckle) between the corner ring of the Shade Sail and your fixing eye:

1. Wind the turnbuckle fully open and apply a lanolin or anti-seize compound to the thread. Attach the turnbuckle up to the Shade Sail and to the fixing – for fork / fork rigging screws this will mean removing the split ring and clevis pin beforehand. Ensure all connections point approximately towards the middle of the sail and are secured.
2. Work around the Shade Sail tensioning each turnbuckle in turn, so that an even amount of tension is applied across the Shade Sail, and working a little at a time to ensure that the tension is even.
3. Stop tensioning when the shade sail is rigid with little or no creases, and then tighten the lock-nuts on the turnbuckle body to prevent loosening.
4. Be careful not to use long lever arms that will over tension the sail and stress your fixings, and check there is enough thread left on the turnbuckle for future tensioning.

Check once again to ensure all mounting points are solid, and re-tension periodically if required.

Adjustable Fixings



Non-Adjustable Fixings



Fixing Kits



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