



User Guide: When to Use Patio Shades and Retractable Awnings During Wind, Harsh Weather, and Acts of God

Patio shades and retractable awnings are excellent additions to outdoor spaces, providing comfort and protection from the elements. However, their usage depends on weather conditions and the risks associated with severe weather. This guide will help you determine when to use or avoid using these features.

1. Mild Weather: Use Freely

Both patio shades and retractable awnings are perfect for mild conditions:

Sunny Days: Use to block UV rays and keep the area cool.

Light Rain: Suitable for light, non-driving rain if they are water-resistant.

Gentle Breezes: Ideal for creating a comfortable outdoor environment.

Tip: Ensure retractable awnings are fully extended and secured during use, but never leave them unattended.

2. Windy Conditions

Patio Shades:

Light to Moderate Winds (Up to 15 mph): Patio shades can be used if they are securely anchored. Patio shades are safe at a stationary position and it is not safe to function until the wind strength decreases or stops. Retractable options are safer because they can be stowed.

Strong Winds (15-30 mph):

Do not use patio shades, as they may act like sails, risking damage or injury.

Gusty or Sudden Winds:

Immediately retract all shades.

Retractable Awnings:

Light to Moderate Winds: (Up to 15 mph):

Awnings can be used but must be monitored closely even though they are equipped with a motion/wind sensor.

Strong Winds or Gusty Conditions: (15 mph and above):

Always retract awnings, as their extended structure is vulnerable to wind damage.

Precaution: Regularly check fastenings, frames, and fabric for wear and tear.

3. Harsh Weather

Patio Shades:

Heavy Rain or Hail:

Avoid using unless they are specifically designed for such conditions. Rain accumulation can damage the material or frame.

Snow:

Retract patio shades, as snow's weight can cause structural damage.

Retractable Awnings:

Heavy Rain:

Do not use the shades at all, as water pooling can strain the fabric.

Snow:

Always retract awnings to prevent heavy accumulation and potential damage.

Extreme Heat or Cold:

Ensure materials are rated for temperature resistance to avoid warping or cracking.

Temperatures below freezing could impact the function of the shades. Please use with caution.

4. Acts of God (Natural Disasters)

Patio Shades and Retractable Awnings:***Thunderstorms:***

Retract to prevent damage from strong winds, lightning, or flying debris.

Hurricanes or Tornadoes:

Never use the shades in these conditions. Retract shades and awnings in advance.

Earthquakes:

These features are not directly affected but must be securely mounted to prevent collapse.

Wildfires:

Avoid using flammable materials. Retract awnings to reduce risks.

5. Maintenance and Safety Tips

Inspection: Regularly inspect fabric, frames, and mechanisms for wear and tear, especially after harsh weather.

Storage: Retract both patio shades and awnings during prolonged periods of disuse or when severe weather is in the forecast.

Emergency Preparedness: Ensure both patio shades and awnings can be quickly retracted in case of sudden weather changes.

Proper Installation: Have retractable awnings professionally installed to ensure safety and durability by AllPro Shade Concepts.

6. Fabric Care and Warranty Compliance To maintain the awning fabric and keep your warranty intact, follow Sunbrella's fabric care standards, which typically include regular cleaning and maintenance. You want to care for the patio shade fabric the same way as the awning material.

Neglecting to clean and care for the fabric can result in warranty denial.

Cleaning Tip: Use lukewarm water, and a soft brush to clean the fabric regularly. Allow it to dry completely before retracting. Always check the manufacturer's care instructions for specifics. It is highly recommended to use **303 fabric cleaner** and **303 fabric guard** solutions listed on Sunbrella's website. They are available on Amazon!!

7. Important Note on Sensors

Some retractable awnings and patio shades are equipped with sensors to detect wind or harsh weather and retract automatically. While these sensors provide convenience, having a sensor does not guarantee warranty protection. Damage caused by severe weather or Acts of God may still void the warranty. Manufacture warranty only covers related labor and materials. This does not cover misuse, neglect or acts of God.

Conclusion

Patio shades and retractable awnings enhance outdoor living but must be used responsibly to avoid damage and ensure safety. Always monitor weather conditions, retract or remove them during severe conditions, and follow this guide to protect your investment. Proper care and maintenance are essential to prolonging their lifespan and keeping your warranty valid. When in doubt, err on the side of caution and retract or store them.

WARNING:

Patio shades that are twice as tall as they are wide run the risk of being vulnerable to getting stuck and being more sensitive to wind/abnormal use. These sizes may require more frequent services. Example 48" wide x 120" tall.