



HOW TO PUT GRAPHICS ON SUNBRELLA® AWNING & MARINE FABRIC

Sunbrella fabrics are typically used on awning and marine applications. Commercial manufacturers apply graphics to the acrylic awning fabric using a variety of methods including the Sunbrella Graphics System, silk-screening, and stenciling. For stenciling and computer-cut graphics we recommend the following.

INSTRUCTIONS

Freehand Graphics

- Lay the Sunbrella fabric over a solid, flat surface. Smooth out the fabric to remove any wrinkles.
- Draw your design onto the Sunbrella fabric using a fabric chalk pencil.
- Paint the outline of your design over your chalk marks using an acrylic latex paint and a stiff ½" paintbrush. Start at the outside edge of the design, using firm pressure with short, sideways strokes to create a crisp outer line.
- Fill in the design with paint. Press firmly to work the paint into the Sunbrella fabric. Let the paint dry thoroughly.
- Apply more coats of paint as needed, until the underlying fabric color is no longer visible. Allow the paint to dry between each coat.
- To prevent "bleed through" of the paint, the first coat may be tinted to a shade close to the Sunbrella fabric or clear shellac may be used as a primer/base coat.
- Allow the final coat to dry 24 hours before exposing the fabric to rain or moisture.

Computer-cut Graphics

- Produce, cut, and weed your own computer cut vinyl as a stencil. (You may also order your design from a graphics shop that has computer cut capabilities.) A high tack 4 mil caste vinyl-stenciling mask is preferred.
- Lay the Sunbrella fabric over a solid, flat surface. Smooth out the fabric to remove any wrinkles.
- Remove the backing/carrier and position the graphic pattern in the desired position on the Sunbrella fabric. Press the vinyl to the fabric.
- Press a spoon, or other smooth object; along the cut edge of the design of the vinyl to increase it's adhesion to the fabric.
- Paint the design, using a stiff bristled ½" paintbrush. Work from the vinyl onto the Sunbrella fabric. This helps eliminate paint "bleed" under the vinyl. Press firmly to work the paint into the fabric.
- Allow the first coat of paint to dry completely. If the first coat forms a seal along the edge of the cut vinyl and Sunbrella fabric, apply the second coat of paint using a softer paintbrush.
- Apply coats of paint as needed, until the underlying Sunbrella fabric color is no longer visible. Allow the paint to dry between each coat.
- Remove the vinyl stencil after you apply the last coat of paint. Remove the vinyl before the paint sets to leave a crisp edge to your design. If the paint has set, some of the paint along the edge of the vinyl may stick to the Sunbrella fabric.
- Allow the final coat of paint to dry for 24 hours before exposing the fabric to rain or moisture.

Tips and Warnings

- You may speed up the drying process by using a hair dryer.
- The Sunbrella fabric has been treated to be water repellent. This will cause the paint to "sit" on top of the fabric, so use firm pressure to work the paint into the fibers.
- It is recommended that you practice on a scrap piece of material before working on a piece of production material.



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