

Shade Sail F.A.Q



A custom designed Shade Sail can be a flexible and unique way to obtain your shade requirements. Highly customizable in size and shape, sails can be incorporated into existing structures, posts can be used to extend your coverage and the fabric can be manipulated to conform to unique shapes that enhance strength and appearance.

If you're considering a custom shade sail project it is very important you consider various factors to ensure the success of shading your area in a safe and effective way.

The following frequently asked questions should give you an idea of the possibilities and limitations of a shade sail.

Questions are to be used for guide purposes for a custom made shade sail only. Palmer canvas accepts no responsibility for any projects that they have not undertaken or been involved in.

- Q What is the size limit for a shade sail?
A Under 50m² for a residential non-council consented project (Northland)
- Q What is the best shape?
A A square or rectangle shape will give much better coverage than a triangular shape
- Q Can the sail be flat?
A If it is a mesh sail then yes but we generally recommend a minimum of 10° pitch
- Q What colours can they be?
A We offer a wide range of colours. See our detailed material brochures for details
- Q How much U.V. does a sail block?
A Our sails block between 85-100% of U.V. rays
- Q What is the best colour?
A Different colours of sail offer different light transmission and U.V. ratings. Your location, height of sail and exposure need to be considerations also
- Q Why are some sails twisted?
A A twisted or Hyperbolic design adds extra strength and durability to the sail
- Q Can the sail be waterproof?
A Yes but a lot more design and considerations need to be looked at as a poorly thought out waterproof sail can spell disaster
- Q Can I attach to my existing structure?
A Yes but all fitting attachments must penetrate the studwork or framing of the structure
- Q Can I attach to my roof?
A No. We do not attach to roofing due to potential waterproofing issues
- Q Can I tension to my fence or trees?
A No. Sails need to be tensioned to posts specific to sail size
- Q What posts do I need?
A Please see our Posting Guide Sheet
- Q Can I install my own posts?
A Yes as long as our guide lines have been followed

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- Q Can Palmer Canvas install the posts?
A Yes, we can cover every aspect of design, build and install of sails & hardware
- Q What tensioners do I need?
A We recommend S/S (stainless steel) turnbuckle tensioners with sizing depending on sail size
- Q What fittings do I need to attach to my structure?
A We recommend S/S eye pads and shackles with sizing depending on sail size
- Q What Bolts/Screws do I need to attach the fittings?
A We recommend S/S coach screws/bolts with sizing depending on fitting size
- Q Do sails have webbing or wire edging?
A Our custom sails come in either U.V treated webbing edging or S/S wire edging depending on sail type and size
- Q What is the warranty on your shade sails ?
A Our sails range from 10-15years depending on the type
- Q Can I leave my sail up in a storm?
A We recommend removing your sail in the event of a storm
- Q How long does it take to manufacture a custom sail?
A Approximately 15-20 working days
- Q Do you offer non custom made sails?
A Yes we offer premade sails in a popular range of sizes. Please see our website for information and pricing
- Q Do you offer free quotes?
A Yes we offer free quotes within 30km of Whangarei. We are happy to come meet you onsite to discuss your potential project