



Nolan Group

Marine & Auto Division

SUNBRELLA SEAMARK®

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Sunbrella SeaMark®?

Sunbrella SeaMark® is a unique combination of Sunbrella fabric and textured marine-grade vinyl.

Sunbrella SeaMark® is the market-leading acrylic textile with a light PVC coating on the underside, making it 100% waterproof.

What is SeaMark® designed for?

Designed and fabricated from the market leading Sunbrella fabric and 100% waterproof backing, Sunbrella SeaMark® is available in a range of colours for applications such as biminis, dodgers and cockpit enclosures.

It is also great for awnings, equipment covers, tonneau covers, entrance canopies and automotive covers. The strength of this fabric allows it to withstand even the toughest conditions.

Ready for the outdoors: It is 100% waterproof, mildew repellent, scratch resistant and UV stabilised.

It can be cleaned the same way as any other Sunbrella fabric (with bleach or mild soap).

Does SeaMark® contract and/or expand?

SeaMark® will expand and contract like all fabrics in our harsh environment.

SeaMark® will remain far more stable in soaking rain staying taut and resisting water pooling, maintaining its waterproof reputation.

Can the PVC side face the top of the canopy?

Sunbrella does not recommend manufacturing with the PVC side exposed to the top side of the structure.

The PVC side of the fabric is designed for the inside of the structure and can be wiped clean with a damp cloth. Should stains or mould become apparent please refer to the Sunbrella® Care – To the Trade app. [Click here for more info on the app.](#)



Sunbrella® Care - To The Trade 4+

Glen Raven, Inc.

★★★★★ 5.0, 3 Ratings

Free

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What colours are available?

The Nolan Group stock Black/Black, Captain Navy, Linen, Charcoal Grey, Black/Linen and Smoke/Cadet Grey. Other colours are available on an indent basis but are subject to additional costs and lead times.

Is SeaMark® available in 203cm width?

SeaMark® is currently only available in 152cm width and roll lengths are 54 metres.

Do I need to use a hot knife to stop fraying?

The vinyl backing gives enough stability to the fabric to eliminate the need for using a hot knife to seal the edges of the fabric. All that is needed is a sharp pair of shears.

As the fabric doesn't 'breathe' is it more susceptible to mould and mildew build-up?

Sunbrella SeaMark® does not promote mildew growth; however, mildew may grow on dirt and other foreign substances that are not removed from the fabric. This is especially true in warm, humid and dark environments. Regular cleaning will help prevent mildew build-up and SeaMark® can be cleaned with bleach. Full cleaning instructions are available on the Sunbrella website. [Click here](#).

When fabricating, what needle size and machine setting is most effective?

- A lock stitch machine with a walking foot is ideal.
- Ideal thread options include a PTFE (Solarfix) or solution-dyed polyester thread of a size comparable to Tex 138 or 92 (Sunguard) or 12 (B207 Hercules) for larger applications.
- Lock stitch machines should use the same size thread for the bobbin as for the top stitch.
- We recommend 5 to 6.5 stitches per inch for marine applications.
- Use a size 110 to 140/22 needle for solution-dyed polyester (Sunguard) thread or comparable PTFE (Solarfix) on a lock stitch machine.
- Always consult your machine owner's manual or technician and test combination before start of manufacture.
- It is always recommended to use the smallest size needle with which the machine will stitch properly. Inspect and change needles for best results. Thread breakage is often related to a burr in the needle and not necessarily the size of the needle itself.
- For marine work, more commonly an R (regular round point), RG (round point, rounded tip) or FFG (light ball point) needle would be used. If when using an R point you notice that you are puncturing/cutting some of the warp or fill yarns in the fabric, you may consider changing to an RG, FFG or other ball point needle. The ball point will tend to 'push' between yarns instead of cutting them.



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- When sewing through clear vinyl or polycarbonate, a Diamond Tri Point needle may be considered.
- The use of acrylic braid (Sunbrella and Sunpro) or centerfold (Bias Binding) binding is recommended.
- Maintain tension in front of and behind the needle during the sewing process to minimise puckering/gathering of fabric when seaming.
- Balanced tension between the top stitch and bobbin should be maintained for the stitch to be locked in between layers of fabric.
- Avoid too much back stitching because this technique can weaken the fabric and cause the fabric to tear more easily.

Can SeaMark® be welded/heat sealed?

Traditionally, Sunbrella SeaMark® has been used in marine applications where sewing is the most common method of fabrication. However, with its waterproof properties, it is also a strong candidate for use on residential canopies where a common method of fabrication involves heat sealing. Sunbrella SeaMark® can be heat sealed with the use of a heat-sealing tape. Testing has been done on:

- Wedge welders – it is recommended that you heat seal it with the vinyl side facing up. This will put more heat on the fabric which is the top portion being sealed.
- Adjustments may be necessary when going from standard Sunbrella to Sunbrella SeaMark®.
- Impulse welders have been tested and work well.
- It should be pointed out that since the heat is applied from the top and bottom sides and not from between the fabrics, it is likely that the embossed side will be 'flattened' and that the knap on the face side will lay flatter than when using a wedge welder. This could cause a change in the way light is reflected off the seam.

What 303 products are recommended for SeaMark®?

303 Fabric Guard is recommended for re-treating the fabric surface of SeaMark® for water repellence and 303 Aerospace Vinyl Protectant for protecting the underside after cleaning.