

Design Suggestions

Our custom shade sails allow up to a 30' maximum length along each side of our triangular sails and up to 35' per side on quadrilateral shade sails. Larger sails may be possible but are not generally recommended.

Very long and narrow sails should be avoided. Ideally, the length of the longest side of a shade sail should be no more than twice the length of the shortest side of a shade sail.

To insure a taut shade sail, a long cable should ideally be used on only *one* corner when connected to an attachment point. All other corners should be attached directly to a post or secure fixing point or with only a short cable. The use of long extension cables on more than one corner allows the shade sail to move excessively during wind. This extra movement increases the shock load and in turn reduces the life of the shade sail.

Triangles and other flat shade sails should slant sufficiently as to prevent water from temporarily pooling during rain. A slope of 1:6 is recommended, but not essential. Larger triangles or flat sails require more of a slant to avoid sagging and to facilitate shedding of rain.

When installing larger shade sails the strength may be increased by twisting the sail into a hyperbolic parabola which gives a 3 dimensional stretch to the fabric. You can also achieve a 3rd dimension by attaching one corner of the quadrilateral significantly higher than the other corners. This distribution of overall tension results in a stronger shade sail that lasts longer than 2 dimensional shade sails exposed to the same conditions.

Shade sails are not intended to hold snow and should be taken down in climates where snow is a possibility. Repeated snow loads will stretch the fabric.

To avoid chafing of the fabric, overlapping shade sails should have a minimum of 12" distance between them. Otherwise, windy conditions may cause the sails to rub against each other and may damage the fabric.

Following these suggestions you can look forward to enjoying a practical and esthetically pleasing addition to your environment for years to come.

We know every installation is different, so if you have specific questions feel free to contact us.

DISCLAIMER: These design suggestions are offered as a courtesy and are only intended to facilitate accurate ordering of our products. Custom Shade Sails does not and can not know the specific intentions of purchaser and makes no extension of warranty by these general guidelines and disclaims any responsibility for any installation related matter including, but not limited to, the actual installation, design of installation, engineering requirements, code compliance, soil or wind conditions.