

## FACT SHEET

### PAINTING CANVAS AWNINGS

Canvas awnings eventually become faded or the colour no longer matches the exterior of the house. Do I replace them or do I paint them? The decision is generally determined by cost. Painting is very economic at approximately \$12 to \$20 per square metre. This fact sheet offers some advice when painting canvas awnings and offers warnings of some common problems.

As long as the canvas has not rotted and is in reasonable condition then the awnings can be painted. If the blinds are to be pulled up and down then Vipond's TautFlex is the premium option. It is flexible, block resistant (will not stick to itself when rolled up), water resistant and durable. Testing shows that awnings that have been painted in Tautflex are still in good order after more than 5 years.

If the awning is in a fixed position then Vipond's Super Lustre is a more economical choice.



*BEFORE*

Sometimes the awning can be difficult to dismantle and it must be painted on site - fully extend the awning and secure it.

The canvas must be thoroughly cleaned. Use Vipond's Dissol (or similar product) and then treat any mould with Vipond's Stop Mould. Allow to dry. Ensure the canvas has not been waterproofed. If water beads on the surface then more cleaning is required.



*DURING*



*AFTER*

For some reason many canvas awnings are striped. These awnings should be coated with TautFlex Block Out undercoat to help hide the stripes. This is dark grey in colour with excellent hiding opacity and forms a good base to apply the top coat. Apply two coats. Experience shows it is impossible to obliterate the stripes completely. If the awning is one colour then the blockout undercoat is unnecessary. Depending on the finishing colour a white base coat may be required.

Canvas is very absorbent and application of the first coat is critical. The first coat should be applied sparingly so as to seal the canvas. The paint should be on the surface of the canvas not in it. A 10mm nap roller is the best without loading it with too much paint and applying in a criss-cross pattern. The second and third coats can be applied heavier to give the opacity. A brush can be used but do not try to brush the paint into the canvas apply lightly to the surface in a criss-cross pattern.

Application of too much paint will make the canvas very stiff and difficult to roll up.

For estimating paint requirements allow 10 square metres per litre per coat.

Striped canvas allow two coats of undercoat and two top coats.

Plain canvas allow three coats

Colours – No limit to the colour range. Colours close to the original canvas colour will give the best results otherwise mid tone colours will give best coverage.

Note: Some awnings are now made of synthetic materials such as mixtures of cotton, polyesters, polypropylene and polyethylene. Paint can have problems adhering to some of these materials and a test panel is appropriate before proceeding.

For further information and how to purchase please contact Vipond's on 03 93504188