

What Is Fabric Crazing?

If your Sunbrella® Marine Grade or Awning/Shade fabric develops what looks like faint lines as you're working on your projects, don't panic. This is what's known as crazing and it's completely normal and to be expected. Luckily, this issue resolves itself in time, and we're here to explain how this happens. Read on to learn more about what crazing is and what causes it.



Crazing lines can appear on any project that uses a stiff, heavy fabric, such as biminis and dodgers.

Crazing affects any solution-dyed, 100% acrylic fabric, and any fabric with a heavy coating. Crazing appears on your fabric when it is folded or creased, usually during patterning or sewing. The effect is most noticeable on light-colored solids, but may also appear on darker or heathered fabrics. Because Sunbrella Marine Grade and Awning/Shade fabrics are treated with a coating to make them water resistant and to increase stiffness, they have a heavier finish than other fabrics, the resins that make the fabric waterproof and stiff are also responsible for crazing.

Crazing is unavoidable during fabrication of your custom item, but it isn't permanent and it doesn't affect the performance of the fabric. However, you may feel that it changes the look of your projects. Crazing lines will fade over time as the fabric is used and as the fabric softens with age.