

# F A B T E X<sup>®</sup>

## C A R E   A N D   C L E A N I N G

### Specialty Shades

#### **Operational Care**

Roller shades are durable window treatments but are still susceptible to breakage from abuse. Always exercise care when raising or lowering manual shades. Larger shades will require more effort and smaller ones less so. Always raise and lower in a smooth continuous fashion. Jerking on the chain in a hard, hurried motion will lead to damage and eventually the breakage of the roller mechanisms.

If the lift chain suddenly becomes more difficult than usual to pull, stop immediately and inspect the mechanism located at the top of the window. Ensure it is free of any obstructions, including dislodged fascia, foreign objects, or fabric that has telescoped across the width of the shade.

#### **Maintenance**

Shading components are made to withstand a lifetime of use with proper care and use. A regular inspection and light maintenance schedule is recommended. Schedule inspections more frequently for heavily used shades.

On larger and motorized shades, there may be heavy duty coupling and bearings that should be inspected and lightly lubed from time to time. When using lubricants, use very small amounts as the oils can quickly and permanently stain some of the lighter fabrics.

#### **Cleaning**

##### **Hand Dusting**

Most routine care of Fabtex window treatments will consist of dust removal. Hand dusting is best done using gentle methods which minimize the possibility of damaging or disturbing woven fabrics, lift cords, venetian slats, etc. Soft filament and feather dusters are recommended. Careful wiping with a soft, lint-free cloth may also be effective.

### **Vacuuming with a Soft Brush Attachment**

The most effective cleaning is accomplished with a light vacuuming. Use a vacuum hose extension with a soft bristle brush. Ensure the bristle brush is clean and the vacuum motor is on low. Gently brush the surface of the fabric with the brush to loosen and suck up any dust. Rigorous vacuuming can distort the fabric and is not recommended.

It is also recommended that the header area containing the roll mechanism is vacuumed to remove any accumulated cobwebs and dust bunnies. In areas where air flow is present, the window pockets will, over time, accumulate a layer of dirt and debris that can negatively affect shade performance.

### **Damp Cloth**

If unresolved soiled areas remain after dusting and vacuuming, they may be cleaned with a damp cloth. Use a clean, white, lint-free cloth (preferably a microfiber towel), lightly dampened with clean water only. Wring the cloth thoroughly to prevent excess water. Wipe gently with light pressure only. Hard, fast, or excessive rubbing can distort the fabric and is not recommended.

### **Spot Cleaning**

If your roller shade becomes soiled or stained, spot cleaning with a mild soap and water solution may be appropriate. If needed, use detergent that is only intended for fabrics and does NOT contain fabric softener additives or harsh chemicals such as bleach, ammonia, abrasives, solvent-based cleaners, etc., as these can damage the surface of the fabric and destroy the UV protectants. If commercial spot cleaners are used, they must first be tested and allowed to dry on an inconspicuous area to ensure compatibility.

Do not rub. Then, use a second clean cloth to apply a clear-water rinse. Allow to air dry thoroughly before stowing shade.

### **Low Heat Steaming**

Steam cleaning is NOT recommended. Also avoid hot water when cleaning fabrics.

## Professional Cleaning

Reputable drapery and upholstery cleaning services are experts in fabric care and the cleaning methods that work best for specific materials, such as:

**Ultrasonic:** Usually involves taking down the window treatment and dipping in an ultrasonic bath. This is a very effective cleaning method, and may even include antistatic treatment to help repel dust.

**Injection/Extraction:** Similar to the popular carpet cleaning method, loose dust and dirt are removed with a vacuum, then, a cleaning solvent is applied, (injection), and immediately suctioned out, (extraction). This heat and agitation-free method can often be performed with shades and drapes left in place.

**Dry Cleaning:** Typically appropriate for drapery fabrics, this method is actually similar to injection/extraction, but is usually done off-site, although service providers who offer on-site dry cleaning do exist.