

# DIY Installation Tips



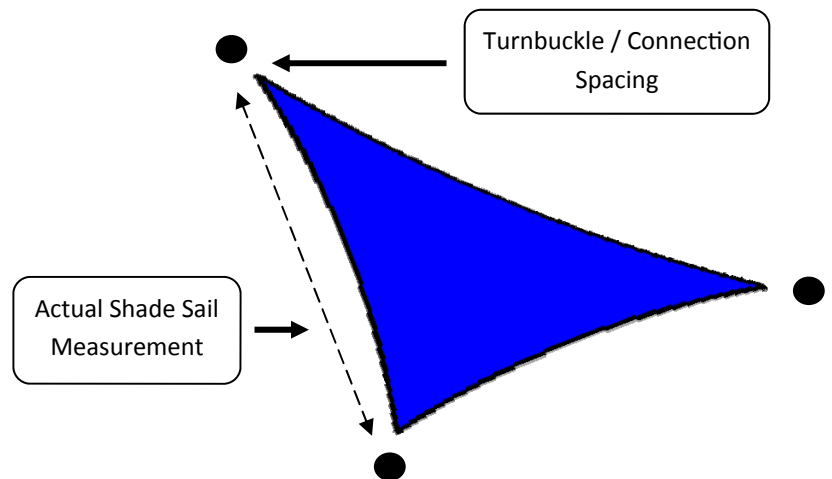
## Planning

- When you are choosing an area for your shade sail, keep in mind placement of trees and power lines.
- To help decide how you want your shade sail to look, lay the shade sail(s) on the ground in the area where it will be installed. Once you have decided placement, the post should be approximately 1' from each sail corner to allow for sail tensioning. It's ok to leave more space between the post and shade sail but you cannot leave too small a space. A large space can be accommodated by a turnbuckle, rope or wire cable, but a smaller space can result in your shade sail sagging.
- Shade sails come with stainless steel rings at each corner that are used to attach to fixing points. **Note:** There are different ways to attach and/or tighten your sail: Spring Clip Connector, Turnbuckle Connector and Chain Extension. We recommend the Turnbuckle Connector. Bungee cords or rope can be used for temporary applications.

## Measuring

- When measuring an area for a shade sail it is important to account for the turnbuckle or post attachment device being used.
- The length of each side would be from the attached open turnbuckle point to point. Closing the turnbuckle after installation will ensure a tight, smooth fit. Measuring from post to post without accounting for hardware (turnbuckle spacing) will result in covers that are too big for the area. This process is the same when attaching to an existing structure.

**Please note:** If attachment posts are already in place, we suggest running a string through the eye screws and pulling it tight. Use this as your measurement for each side. If no posts are already present, we suggest laying out your prefabricated cover with open turnbuckles attached to decide specific post placement.



## Attachments



- When attaching to an existing structure (house/building) its important to make sure the area is structurally sound. If unsure, contact a local building professional or engineer prior to installing. Reinforcement of an area may be necessary.
- Prior to deciding on post location, be sure there are no underground obstacles and consider the soil type. There are many local agencies that will assess your property for free to alert you to underground pipes, electricity, etc.

# Post Footers

- Typical shade sail posts require a 3.5-4.5 ft. depth with concrete foundations. Holes should be 18-24 inches in diameter depending on the post size.
- In sandy soil, as in Florida, you should account for 1/3 of the post height to be underground for safe placement. If your shade is larger than 650 Sq. Ft., an additional 6-12 inches may be necessary.

# Sail Installation

**There are several different ways to support your sail.** Two of the most common are steel posts and wooden posts. However you decide to install your shade, make sure the footings are appropriate and can withhold the structure. When using concrete footings, make sure the concrete cures for 24-48 hours.

- Steel, aluminum, or wood can be used depending on the size of the shade sail, height of placement, and the number of sails being attached to each post. Please note, wood is not suggested for sails over 600 Sq. Ft. and aluminum is not suggested for sails over 150 Sq. Ft.
- Steel posts are the most common for stand-alone structures.
- **Wooden Posts:** If using wooden posts, have them treated with a preservative so they will last.
- **Existing Structure:** Your shade can also be attached to an existing structure such as your house (a solid beam of the house, not the siding) or a patio column. It can also be attached to a tree. First, you will need to mark the spot to place the eyebolt. Make certain to allow approximately 18" in between for shade sails. Use the turnbuckle to tighten and steel cabling for an extension if needed.



**Suggested Post Attachments:** Eyebolts, pad eyes (mounting brackets), eye screws, and turnbuckles are recommended depending on the post type.

**Shade Sail Tensioning:** Shade sails should be taught, however not over tensioned. After the posts and hardware are installed, move from point to point tensioning turnbuckles as required. Proper tensioning will improve the longevity of the sails as floppy sails can wear prematurely on the fabric.

*Please note: DIY shade sails are designed for temporary shade solutions. Sails should be removed when strong winds are forecasted.*



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**DISCLAIMER:** The installation tips are offered as a courtesy for Do-It-Yourself shade sail projects and accurate mail order purchasing. Carolina Shade Sails and Apollo Sunguard Systems, Inc. is not responsible for the installation or any factors such as code compliance, engineering requirements, design/layout, or any other unforeseen installation matters. Before installing your shade sail, please contact your local authorities to ensure you are in compliance with any local building codes and permitting requirements. Apollo Sunguard Systems, Inc. is not liable for incorrect installations or issues associated with installation. Please note, utility companies should be notified before any digging. **WARNING:** Never put your shade sail near an open flame or place your barbecue/grill under it. Sails should be taken down during winter months if snow is present. Sails should be removed in windy conditions.