

- Many products on the market today have undergone laboratory testing to establish the protective ability of the shade material. These products will be labelled with a tag indicating this protective rating as a Ultraviolet Protection Factor or 'UPF'. The higher the UPF number, the better the material is at blocking UV. Look for a UPF 50+ for maximum protection.
- If a product has not undergone testing it may state its protective ability as a percentage (%). For example if the product states it has 90% protection from UV, then it blocks 90% of UV and transmits 10%. For maximum protection buy a product with a rating as close as possible to 100%.
- To be certain of the amount of protection provided by a portable shade structure select one that has a UPF rating.
- Portable shade needs to be strong enough to resist wear and tear from frequent transportation, and frequent use. A strong, durable and easy to carry bag is important as is a place in which to store it.

### Things to think about when using portable shade:

- If using a large number of umbrellas or small tents group them together to form a single larger shelter for better protection.
- The use of guy ropes in holding up canopies may create a tripping hazard for people walking past.
- Shade structures should not be placed where it may block emergency vehicle access.
- Umbrellas can be very unstable on windy days.
- Always make sure portable shade structures are put up properly

### Special Note:

Never rely on shade alone for UV protection, particularly when using small portable shade. Also use other ways to protect yourself such as clothing, sunscreen and sunglasses for better protection.

### References:

1. Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPNSA). Solar UVR: Protection by clothing: UPF rating scheme, Radiation and Health Information Sheets (UV Radiation).
2. Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPNSA). Materials and protection against UVR, Radiation and Health Information Sheets (UV Radiation).
3. Greenwood JS, Soulos GP, Thomas ND. Undercover: Guidelines for shade planning and design, NSW Cancer Council and NSW Health Department Sydney, 1998.

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