

Portable Shade

Tips for purchase and use

Australia has the highest rate of skin cancer in the world. Skin cancer is mostly caused by too much ultraviolet (UV) radiation from the sun.

Most Australians are aware of how to protect themselves from the sun. They wear hats and sleeved shirts and put on sunglasses and sunscreen to prevent sun damage. Shade provides good protection from the sun. Shade, when it is available, is probably the most user-friendly type of sun protection.

What is portable shade?

A shade structure is considered portable if it can be easily transported, put up and pulled down and used in different locations. Examples include tents, beach cabanas, marquees and umbrellas.

For more information call SunSmart on 13 11 20 or visit www.sunsmart.com.au
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Things to think about when purchasing portable shade:

- Think about your portable shade needs prior to contacting suppliers. Portable shade for officials on a riverbank at a canoe race will be different to portable shade for competitors marshalling at a swimming meet.
- Shade suppliers may not necessarily offer independent or objective advice. Their advice about the best type of shade may be influenced by a desire to sell you their product. Compare quotes.
- Is the structure big enough for the number of people who will be using it?
- Portable shade structures can be made of different materials including cloth or canvas. These materials provide different amounts of protection from UV.
 - In general:
 - Closely woven or dense fabric blocks more UV
 - Darker colours usually block more UV
 - Heavier weight fabrics usually block more UV than lighter weight fabrics of the same type
 - Fabric that is wet, worn or overstretched may have reduced UV protection.

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