

# just ask Jo-Ann



more projects, tips & techniques at Joann.com®

free

## GENERAL CARE

FOR OUTDOOR FABRIC, OUTDOOR FURNITURE CUSHIONS & UMBRELLAS:

- Read any manufacturer's instruction tags attached to the material.
- Hose down awnings and seat cushions to remove stains and dirt. Mildew grows on dirt particles and can work into the material. Keeping outdoor fabric furnishings clean while enabling them to breathe helps them last longer.
- Cover outdoor cushions when not in use.
- Store outdoor furniture indoors during the winter.
- Stretch hammocks and chair covers over the frame to avoid shrinkage.
- Remove acrylic cushions from their frame before cleaning. Spot clean with mild soap and water using a sponge. Rinse with clean water. Dry completely before using or storing cushions.
- Never wrap cushions in plastic when storing. Plastic does not allow the cushion to breathe and may cause mildew if there is any moisture present.
- Spread a towel over the cushion when using baby oil, suntan lotions or oils. These products can breakdown the UV factor, causing premature fading.



Courtesy of Jo-Ann Fabric and Craft Stores®

Please read and follow all manufacturers' instructions for all tools and materials used.  
Provide adult supervision if children participate in this project.  
©2012 Jo-Ann Stores, Inc.

**JO-ANN**  
fabric and craft stores®

## COMMON CHARACTERISTICS OF OUTDOOR FABRICS

- Fabric is water-resistant, not waterproof.
- Does not promote mildew growth; but it may grow on soils or spills that are not removed promptly from the fabric.
- Manufacturer's UV ratings are usually provided in hours of protected sun exposure. Most printed/woven polyester & printed acrylic fabrics are rated for 500-750 light hours. Woven acrylics are rated for 750-1500 light hours.



## BEST

**SOLUTION-DYED ACRYLIC/SUNBRELLA® ACRYLIC** for outdoor pillows, cushions and upholstery. Fibers that are initially colorless. With solution-dyed acrylic the coloring takes place before the yarn is ever created. A liquid acrylic solution is mixed with color, formed into a fiber, then spun into yarn. Fabric remains colorfast after sun exposure, wear & tear or bleach application. It is soft, comfortable and breathable. Do not dry clean. Air dry. If necessary, use iron on synthetic setting.



**MARINE-GRADE VINYL/NAUTOLEX** for boat upholstery, patio furniture, car interiors, RV interiors, offices, home decor & automotive upholstery. Marine-grade vinyl fabrics can be used for upholstery in conference rooms, home offices, lounge seats, spas & massage tables. Special pigments provide long-lasting performance when exposed to the rigors of harsh marine environments, sun & the elements. Broad color & pattern options adapt to market trends. Easy to maintain — can easily be cleaned with soap and water or a mild detergent. NOTE: Some household cleaners & solvents remove plasticizers from vinyl, making them brittle. Abrasive cleaners scratch the smooth surface.

## BETTER

**VINYL-COATED SYNTHETIC FIBER MESH — PHIFERTEX®** is strong PVC mesh that does not stretch. The only fabric suitable for outdoor patio sling style chairs. The sling chair fabric, rather than the frame, provides support for the weight of the occupant. The fabrics are durable, easily cleaned, colorfast, and have superior strength. They have a high UV rating and do not promote mildew growth. They can be scrubbed, bleached and hosed without damage to the fibers or loss of color. Available only on Joann.com®.

**OLEFIN/SOLAR** highly durable, value choice for outdoor cushions pillows & umbrellas. Not water-resistant. Provide better fade resistance than polyester and cotton, for less than the cost of solution-dyed acrylic fabric. Olefin color selections include the most popular colors on the market.

## GOOD

**SPUN POLYESTER/OUTDOOR CANVAS** for outdoor pillows and cushions. The most decorative of the outdoor fabrics is the most affordable. Polyester is strong, resistant to stretching, shrinkage & chemical damage. It is quick drying, wrinkle resistant, crisp and resilient when wet or dry. It maintains printed patterns well and resists rot from outdoor elements. Polyester basecloths are screenprinted with dyes resistant to fading and outdoor elements. A water repellent guard is factory applied in the final finishing process. Do not dry clean or tumble dry as it can break down the protective finish.

## RECOMMENDED FILLER FOR OUTDOOR CUSHIONS

**NU-FOAM®** densified polyester batting for chair cushions, deck furniture, pillows, camping, futons, crib bumpers, playpen mats & recreational vehicle accessories. Safe alternative to conventional foam. Compressed layers of 100% polyester 1"-4" thick. Mildew resistant, won't yellow or disintegrate. Hand wash and air dry. Available in precut sizes or 1" & 2" by-the-yard.

