How to obtain measurements for a shade sail

Installing your own shade sail can be daunting. It is important to obtain accurate measurements to help us design and fabricate your shade sail. This helps reduce errors and sagging.

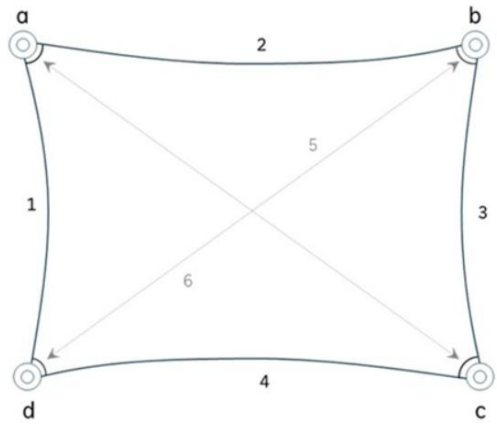
1. **Consider your space**: Determine where the shade sail will be installed. This could be between two structures, or as a standalone feature. How large is the area? The area's size will determine how big your shade will need to be.
2. **Select Anchor Points**: Choose the points where the shade sail will be attached. These should be sturdy structures, such as poles, posts, roofs or walls of a building. In some cases, you will need to install new support systems. Ensure they are at different heights to allow for proper tension and water runoff.
3. **Consider the Shape**: Decide on the shape of the sail (triangle, square, rectangle, etc.) based on the area that you are covering and the measurements taken. Measuring for a triangle shade sail will differ from measuring for a cantilever shade structure. Measuring a site for a single-post shade structure will be less complex. Keep your shade structure shape in mind as you begin to measure.
4. **Consider the height:** Having the mounting points of your shade at different heights will create variation. Without height variation, a shade will lie flat. Height variation is also essential for the longevity of your installation. It allows rainwater to run off the top of the shade instead of collecting in the middle. Make sure you measure the height of each anchor point.
5. **Measure the Lengths**: All measurements should be taken from fixing point to fixing point. Diagonal dimensions are also critical in the fabrication and design process to produce a correct fitting shade sail.
6. **Accuracy**: We will make necessary reductions for fixings and stretch to make sure the sail fits properly. All outside perimeter measurements are required and please supply as many diagonal measurements as possible in addition to fixing point to fixing point, and make sure all measurements are to be to the nearest 10mm
7. **Double-Check**: Before finalising your drawing, double-check all measurements to confirm accuracy.

Tips for measuring for a shade sail

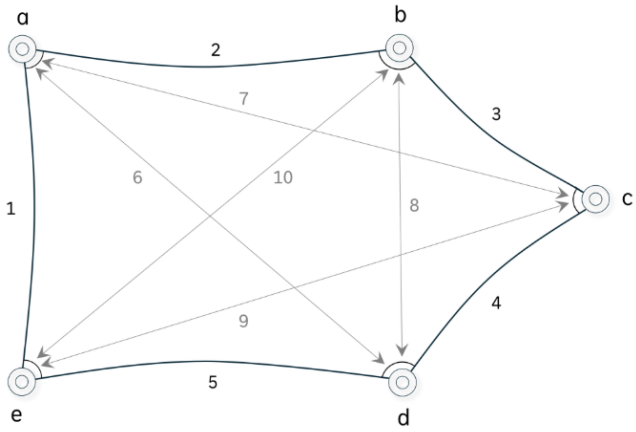
Sketching the shade structure can make it easier to visualise it in your space. Start by drawing a plan view of the area including the fixing points and any structures or buildings. Include any outside perimeter measurements of the space.

- Start by drawing a rough sketch of the shade on a piece of paper.
- Label each corner of the shade as A, B, C, D, etc
- On the paper, list each letter and the pole heights next to them.
- Record the perimeter and diagonal lengths between each pole. These MUST be actual dimensions from your fixing point to fixing point.
- Please mark a corner on the drawing as this will assist you with orientation of the unit at installation.

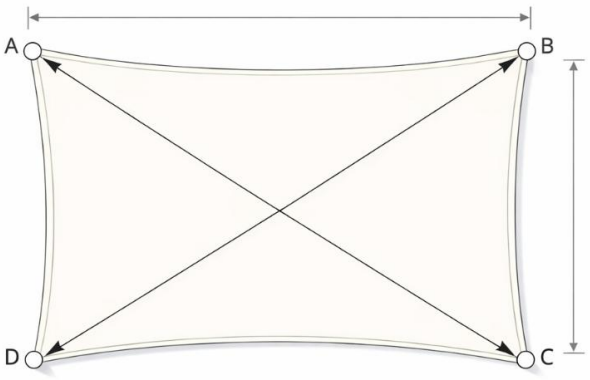
Examples of a drawing



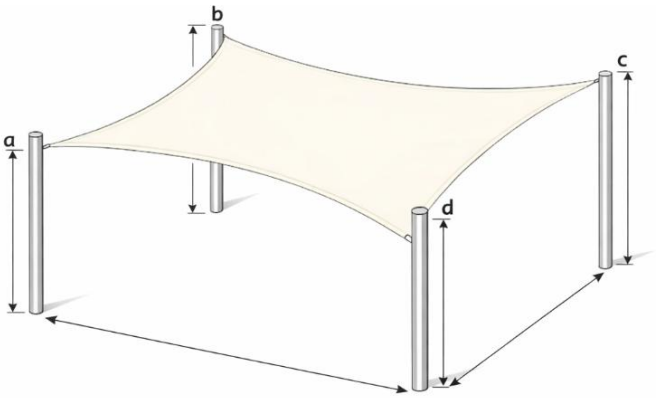
A square or rectangular shade sail requires six measurements, plus the height of all four anchor points.



A five-sided shade sail requires ten measurements, plus the height of all five anchor points.



Plan View



Elevation View