

DESIGNING QUICK DRY CUSHIONS

DESIGNING CUSHIONS FOR USE IMMEDIATELY AFTER A RAIN

Sunbrella® is the premiere performance fabric brand for premium cushions and umbrellas worldwide. Sunbrella upholstery fabrics combine the largest available design and color choices with a host of leading performance features – cleanability, fade resistance, fashion forward design and colors to create the most comfortable, beautiful and easy care outdoor environments.

Considering the deep-seating trend and Mother Nature’s “liquid sunshine,” we asked our R&D team a simple question: How do we make a cushion that dries quicker?

CUSHION ELEMENTS	SUGGESTED MANUFACTURING TECHNIQUES
Fabric	Any Sunbrella Rain fabric
Cushioning	High density foam, "flow through" foam, reticulated foam, or polyester batting
Seams/sewing	An anti-wicking thread that mitigates entry of moisture through sewn areas or using seam tape to seal the holes created from sewing is highly recommended. The use of anti-wicking thread would require some minor sewing set up and tension adjustments
Cushion casing	The back side panel of the cushion must use a fabric that allows air to flow through the cushion like Sunbrella Shadow or Sunbrella Sling – Augustine type fabric. There must also be an overlapping flap to cover the zipper and/or venting material to keep water from entering the cushion.

FEATURES/BENEFITS

- Highly water and stain repellent
- Completely dry minutes after wiping away moisture
- Great look and feel of fabric versus using vinyl
- Lower surface temperature than waterproof options such as vinyl

CONSIDERATIONS

- Fabric is mildly stiffer than standard Sunbrella upholstery fabric
- Use of Anti-Wicking thread would require minor setup adjustments
- Machine washing of the cushion would not be recommended as it could damage moisture barrier coating
- Standing cushions on end while not in use helps to mitigate moisture penetration
- Extra costs associated with this specification



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TWO-SIDED CUSHION OPTION

CUSHION ELEMENTS	SUGGESTED MANUFACTURING TECHNIQUES
Fabric	Sunbrella Shadow or Sunbrella Sling fabric. These fabrics feature an open weave that allows the moisture to flow through quickly. Sunbrella Shadow features a wickable treatment, which enhances the moisture to flow.
Cushioning	High density foam, “flow through” foam, reticulated foam, or polyester batting
Cushion casing	Use Sunbrella Shadow or Sunbrella Sling fabrics for the complete cushion casing

FEATURES/BENEFITS

- Water quickly flows through the cushion and the fabric dries quickly
- Dries quicker than traditional fabrics
- Still a two sided cushion
- Great textural appearance and feel
- Highly breathable for extra comfort



CONSIDERATIONS

The cushioning material should be UV resistant due to the openness factor of the Sunbrella Shadow and Sunbrella Sling fabrics.

ONE-SIDED CUSHION OPTION

CUSHION ELEMENTS	SUGGESTED MANUFACTURING TECHNIQUES
Fabric	ANY Sunbrella upholstery fabric for cushion top and boxing, Sunbrella Shadow or Sunbrella Sling for the bottom panel.
Cushioning	Traditional outdoor batting/foam materials

FEATURES/BENEFITS

- Highly water and stain repellent
- Easy to clean
- Broad fabric styles available
- Moisture that does get into the cushion will flow through the bottom of the cushion with the open weaves of Sunbrella Shadow or Sunbrella Sling fabrics
- Highly breathable for extra comfort

Sunbrella Shadow or Sling fabric on bottom



CONSIDERATIONS

For most applications, it is a one-sided cushion.