

## ShadeTree® Maintenance Tips

ShadeTree® is a low-maintenance product that requires only a **few simple and easy steps** to maintain its peak performance.

The following maintenance should be done on a routine basis to keep your canopies performing at a high level.

- Tracks should be periodically wiped out with a damp cloth.**  
Airborne dirt and dust may collect in channels and cause a dragging sensation, as the canopies are extended/retracted. A spray car wax can be applied to these channels periodically to lubricate your system. We offer a high quality lubricant that greatly enhances your canopies performance as well as helps to repel dust and dirt accumulation in your track system. A sample of our wax is included in our ShadeTree® Maintenance Kit. Do not use a petroleum-based lubricant such as WD-40 or Liquid Wrench, as these products will cause more build up of dirt and dust.
- Take your system down during inclement weather conditions.**  
It is highly recommended that you take your canopies down for winter storage. Wrap ups are also available to help protect your investment when not in use. During severe winds it is advisable to protect your canopies. Like a flag, excessive flapping of the fabric can cause premature wear in the fabric or even damage to the material.
- Routinely inspect the fabric edges.** The fabric manufacturer has ultra-sonically sealed your fabric edges. However, a nick or abrasion in the fabric edge may cause threads to unravel. If left untreated these edges will continue to deteriorate directly into the fabric's center. At the first sign of an exposed thread, trim any loose threads off the edges, and then apply clear silicone sealant on the edges of the fabric (available in our ShadeTree® Maintenance Kit). This will reseal the fabric edge before further deterioration occurs. Please be aware that fraying may be the result of improper care of your ShadeTree® Canopies. Great care should be taken to keep fabric from abrasive surfaces (such as brick, stone, stucco or other rough siding) or objects that cause premature wear in the fabric. Our warranty does not cover this type of damage to your system. However, we do offer a program for repair of damaged canopies at reasonable charges.
- Routinely adjust the wind release mechanism.** The same airborne pollutants that can cause the track to gum up can affect the wind release mechanism. We encourage you to clean the areas that snap the canopy rollers into place so they will operate freely. You should want the mechanism adjusted so that it is tight enough to hold the canopies in place, but loose enough to release in a high wind situation. If the release system is dirty and too tight, there could be damage to the canopies in high winds. This wind release system is a unique and patented feature of ShadeTree® Canopies and protects your canopies if maintained regularly.

### Questions & answers to keep your ShadeTree® Canopies operating smoothly and effortlessly:

- Q** *After two years of use, our canopies are getting soiled ... how can I clean them?*  
**A** They can be easily washed, using a brush and a mild soap in lukewarm water. (Do NOT use detergent on the fabric). Then rinse thoroughly with a hose. For the ultimate treatment use **ShadeTree® Canopy Cleaner** to remove stubborn stains followed by an application of **ShadeTree® Water Repellent** for continued water roll-off. A power-washer, on light setting, works very well.
- Q** *Our canopies tend to stick in the locking mechanisms and it is difficult to pull them out. Why?*  
**A** The tension screw on the locking mechanism may be adjusted too tight. Back the screw off a few turns (counter-clockwise) until the canopies release easier. If this does not correct the problem, the locking mechanism may be faulty. If so, simply call us at **800-894-3801** and we will send you a replacement. *No charge, of course.*
- Q** *This year it is getting harder to pull the canopies in the tracks ... what can we do?*  
**A** Over time it is likely that dirt and grime will accumulate in the tracks, making it more difficult to operate the canopies. You can remedy this as follows:
  - Use a mild detergent and a soft brush (a toothbrush works fine) to clean the tracks, then rinse thoroughly.
  - When dry, apply a paste or liquid automotive wax over all of the inner-track surface. Let dry and then wipe off the residue with a clean cloth.
  - **Do NOT use oil or any wet lubricant, such as WD-40, on the tracks as it would attract more dirt.**
  - For ultimate performance, use **ShadeTree® EasyRider Track Lubricant**.
- Q** *How do I remove my canopies for winter storage?*  
**A** The canopies can be taken down for end-of-season storage by removing the Roller Locks and the Top Lock Brackets. This allows the canopies to be easily rolled out of the tracks.