

# ***Dome Care and Maintenance***

- Keep your Dome Cover clean! Even on mildew resistant fabric, mildew can grow on accumulated dirt or foreign materials which remain on the top or bottom surface and eventually damage or stain the fabric. F.Domes cannot be responsible for such damage.
- Hose down your Cover with clean water occasionally, every month or so. We recommend that you do this on a hot, sunny day.
- Wash down your Dome Cover if it becomes dirty. Use a mild soap and brush lightly with a cloth or soft brush if necessary. Make sure to rinse thoroughly and immediately.
- Do not wash your Dome Cover with any harsh or strong solution, or scrub too vigorously with an abrasive cleaner – this can damage the fabric.
- Do not scrub your Bay Window – dust and dirt can scratch the clear vinyl. To clean, rinse the window thoroughly then wipe with a soft cloth and Windex. Always wipe horizontally to best camouflage any potential scratches.
- To remove minor scratches and hazing on your Bay Window, use a restorative product such as Diamondite. For best results, always follow individual manufacturer's directions for use.
- Keep shrubbery and vines away from the Dome Cover, as many bushes contain an acid which can be harmful to your fabric.
- Do not allow water or snow to stand on the Dome Cover, this can cause pocketing and possible stretching of the fabric.

- Do not overlook small rips or tears. If a sharp object punctures the fabric, repair immediately to prevent further damage.
- if at any time you notice rust forming on your Dome Frame, treat immediately with a steel brush and application of a metal preservative.

## ***Storage***

- Do not store the Dome Cover when damp or wet. Mildew can grow on any damp surface and may permanently stain the fabric.
- Do not store Dome Cover in freezing temperatures as clear window vinyl may become brittle and can be damaged if moved.
- Always store the Frame and Cover off the ground to prevent potential moisture damage, which can lead to frame rust and fabric rot.

## ***Weather Considerations***

### **Snow**

If you live in an area of heavy snowfall we recommend that you knock the snow off before there is six inches (15 cm) of accumulation. Use a flat surface such as the end of a push broom so you do not puncture the frozen fabric. Beware of heavy snow falling from tree limbs. We recommend that you do not leave your dome unattended over a winter of heavy snowfall.

### **Hail**

Your dome will have no problem shedding small hail without any damage to the cover. If you live in an area where you get baseball-sized hail, let us know what happens to your dome. You may want to consider a more solid roof.

## **Extreme Winds**

Our Domes are designed to handle extreme winds. It is important to properly secure your dome to the ground if you live in an area with extreme winds. We offer earth anchors for domes in high wind areas. Please contact us if you think your dome may require additional anchoring. If above 130 mph (200 km/h) winds are expected, we recommend taking the cover off the frame and storing it until the storm is over.

## **Lightning and E.M.F.**

If lightning is a concern in your area, ground your dome frame with a lightning rod.

It is important to ground your dome because it attracts stray electro magnetic frequency, such as radio and cell phone waves. This energy is put into the Earth when it is grounded, creating a “clear” field inside the dome, free of stray electromagnetic energy. This will also ground lightning. If you are in an area with frequent lightning, you may need two grounding rods.

Attach a line of thick (#6 or #8 gage), coated, copper wire from one of your bottom hubs to a 7 ft-long copper grounding rod, buried vertically into the Earth. (If you are in an area with rock, you may bury the rod horizontally). You can purchase a copper-grounding rod from Pacific Domes or from your local hardware store for less than 20 dollars.

## **Floods**

To protect your dome from floods, you can build your deck elevated off the ground. Be sure that the footings are well cemented. Do not build your deck on the side of a cliff or mountain that could wash away in a flood.

## **Earthquakes**

Your dome is a very safe structure to be in during an earthquake. If you live in a seismically active area, build your deck with a strong foundation. Do not hang anything from the dome frame that could fall and hurt you.

## **Extreme Sun**

In most climates, the ventilation provided by using the screened areas of your dome, will keep your dome at comfortable temperatures. In extremely warm climates, a Solar Fan may be necessary. In climates where the rain is intermittent, and there may be the possibility of water coming into the screened areas, the solar fan will exhaust the hot air without rain entering.

## **Extreme Cold**

Using a heat source, a fan or vent to create airflow to circulate the heat and a winter-insulated liner can keep you warm in sub-zero temperatures. A stove cap and flashing, for venting a wood or gas stove, is provided with each dome. An insulated liner can be purchased for an extra charge.

## **Heavy Rain**

Your dome should have no problems withstanding heavy rain. Our PCV membranes are welded and sealed to be waterproof.

## **Condensation**

Condensation occurs when warm moist air meets a cold surface. The risk of condensation therefore depends upon how moist the air is and how cold the surface of the dome is. In a dome with cold outside walls, the temperature of which falls below the dew point temperature, it is quite normal for condensation to occur.

Condensation occurs usually in winter, because the dome cover is cold and because windows are opened less frequently and the moist air cannot escape. Cooking and water use inside the dome will help create condensation.

The below suggestions can help prevent condensation build up:

- Airflow will help prevent condensation. Use a fan inside your dome.

- Ventilation will allow moist air to escape. Install a register in any of your lower window openings.
- Use dry heat.
- Use a dehumidifier can be used in extreme conditions.
- Install a ventilation hood over your cooking area.

## ***Mildew Prevention***

To prevent mildew keep your dome well ventilated and dry. In extremely humid climates, where mildew is an issue, using a dehumidifier will prevent mildew. Keeping your dome clean is also essential. When storing your dome, make sure it is clean and dry.

## **Treatment**

Sponge down all mildew areas with a strong bleach solution (1 part bleach to 4 parts water). Wear gloves and have your dome well ventilated to avoid inhaling fumes. Mildew will turn pale when it dies.

Natural mildew treatments:

A recipe for a curative and preventative for mildew growth treatment:

- 2 1/2 gallons water
- 20 drops Tea Tree Oil 1/4 cup Borax

- 1/2 cup white vinegar

Spray mildew with hydrogen peroxide. Wash with a thin paste of lemon juice and borax to inhibit new mildew formation.

Running a high-powered ozonator inside of your dome will destroy any mildew.