

Questions often asked when getting cover for outdoor areas:

What is the difference between the various types of roofing options?

Over recent years there have been increasing numbers of new comers to the shade industry, many of these companies use polycarbonate roofing. Indeed Fresco Shades began creating canopies with polycarbonate, but soon realised the issues with this material and stopped using it. If you are considering buying a shade, you should be asking the following questions:

How hot will it be under the canopy?

Polycarbonate does little to reduce heat and glare, indeed it sometimes increases the heat under the canopy. Most polycarb users find that the area is unusable on hot days over the summer. Whereas PVC roofing material blocks over 90% of the heat and 99% of the UV, creating a cool haven in hot summer months.

Will it be noisy?

When it rains, a PVC roof will not create excess noise. A polycarbonate roof can be very noisy when it rains – this is a major consideration if the covered area is near a living area or bedrooms. In addition polycarb creaks on hot days as it expands and contracts. PVC fabric covering is very quiet by comparison.

How easy is it to clean?

PVC roofs are easy to clean with a brush and soapy water, or a gentle water blast. The surface has a special coating which repels dirt and grime, so that when cleaned, the dirt “slides” off with little effort.

Polycarbonate roofs can be very hard to keep clean – dirt is trapped between the overlaps of the sheets and is almost impossible to remove.

Are all PVCs created equal?

Certainly not! There is a vast range of grades that *could* be used as a roofing material but very few *should* be used as a roofing material. Most PVC materials do not have the treatments to protect them from the elements. They are likely to breakdown and become unserviceable in a short space of time. Fresco Shades has been using Ferrari PVC for the last 12 years without encountering any of these problems. Our PVC roofing material is architectural grade, which means it's very robust, and while we have a 5 year guarantee on the roof, in practice they last many more years.