

WHITE PAPER

WINDOW SHADES

KEEP YOUR SHADES LOOKING GREAT





Lighter fabrics and smaller shade widths are key to avoid shade deflection.

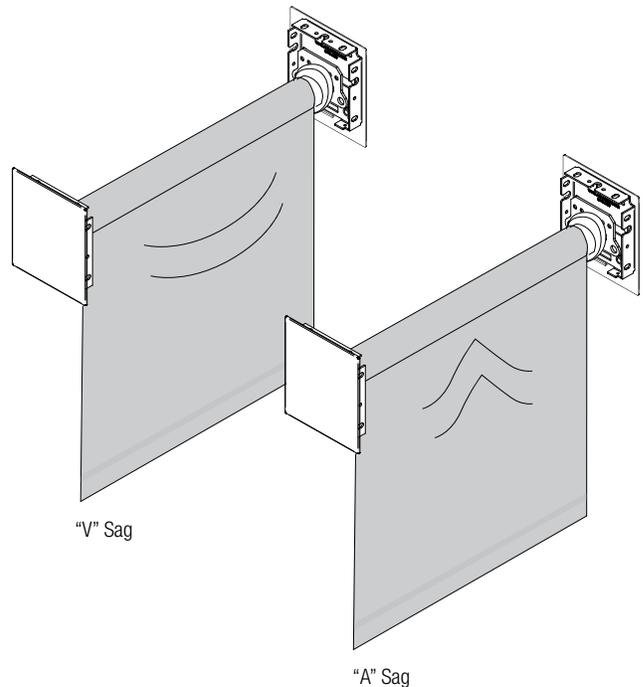
- You want your investment to look great year after year. Proper use and maintenance of your Draper window shade will provide many years of service.

Window shade fabrics are dynamic and, as such, there are some occasional issues that can occur. These are easily remedied, however, either in the design process, or with some simple field fixes. Below are some of the more common issues, and some suggestions on how to deal with these issues.

SHADE DEFLECTION

Although Draper has strict tolerances on how much deflection is allowed, the wider the shade, the more likely the metal roller tube will sag in the middle due to the weight of the fabric. This causes a visible “A” or “V” sag in the center of the fabric, which is known as deflection. Sagging can be minimized. First, operate the shade down far enough to expose the fabric attachment. An “A” shaped sag can then be dealt with by raising the fabric at the ends; a “V” sag can be eliminated by raising the fabric in the center.

To avoid shade deflection, lighter fabrics and smaller shade widths are the key. Although larger and stronger tubes will help, even the largest tubes will have deflection if they are too long or the fabric is too heavy. Instead of one very wide shade, if aesthetically and logistically possible, consider having two or more units.





Keeping a height-to-width ratio of shades to roughly 3:1 or lower helps avoid shade deflection and curl.

- You want every shade performing like new. Each Draper solar control shade is tested for proper tracking and operation.

EDGE CURL

Edge curling is a problem mostly seen on very tall shade units. The curling may also be accompanied by ripples, waves, or twisting in the fabric panel.

The simplest way to avoid edge curling and waves is to keep the height-to-width ratio of your shade to roughly 3:1 or lower—that is, try to keep shade height no more than three times the width of the shade.

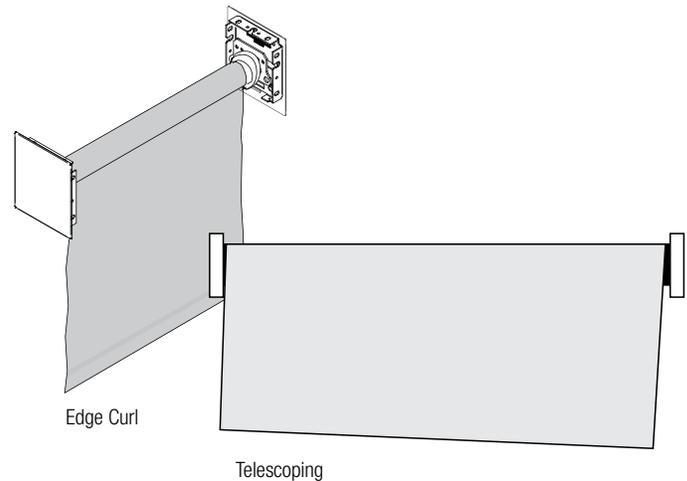
If that is not possible, battens—rods sewn into pockets horizontally across the shade—can be used. These are visible, which may not be aesthetically acceptable for your application. Another option is to place two shades in one vertical opening.

TELESCOPING

Sometimes a shade may not track (roll down) perfectly square with the roller. This is called telescoping. The shade fabric is uneven and may track off one side of the roller. Each Draper Solar Control Shade is tested to ensure proper tracking and operation.

Even with this testing, some field adjustments may be needed for telescoping. If the shade is telescoping, place a piece of high-quality gaffer tape about 1” wide on the

exposed roller (where the fabric will cover it) on the side that you want the fabric drawn toward. For example, if the fabric is tracking to the left, place the tape on the right side.



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Most fabrics are easily cleaned, techniques vary with fabric types, care should be taken to avoid damaging fabric during cleaning.

- Modern cutting techniques reduce fraying and produce clean edges on our shades.

FRAYING

Although Draper uses modern cutting techniques that reduce the likelihood of frayed edges, any time a fabric is cut—whatever the method—there is a small possibility of fraying after some time in the field, depending on the usage of the product.

For polyester shade fabrics, carefully use heat/flame to melt the frayed pieces away.

For fiberglass, scissors can be used to trim the fabric. Because fiberglass core yarn is white, fraying may be more visible on dark fabrics. Once the frays have been trimmed away, you may need to use a permanent marker to color the edges.

CLEANING

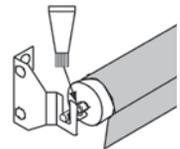
Most of Draper's standard fabrics may be cleaned at the window by vacuuming with a soft brush attachment. Most may also be cleaned by using a sponge or soft cloth and mild solution of warm, soapy water. A dishwashing liquid, such as Ivory liquid, is recommended. Some uncoated fabrics are exceptions, and must be cleaned with a dry art

sponge, but that is the same whether fiberglass, polyester, or a blend. Be sure to steady the fabric with one hand during cleaning, and don't jerk or place weight on the fabric. Depending on the installation hardware and substrate, placing too much weight on the fabric could result in the mounting hardware being pulled loose.

For information on specific fabrics, visit www.draperinc.com/WindowShades/tools/fabricselector and select the fabric to be cleaned.

LUBRICATION

Most window covering products manufactured by Draper, when properly installed, should require no operational maintenance or lubrication. Occasionally, however, idlers on window shades may start squeaking. If the idler end of the shade begins to squeak, apply a small amount of a lithium-based grease directly to the idler pin.



draperinc.com/whitepapers_casestudies.htm