



# COVER MAINTENANCE GUIDE

*Extend the life of your fabric shelter's cover with our care tips and best practices.*



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# *Maintaining Your Fabric Shelters:* **COMPATIBLE BUILDINGS**

Extend the life of your fabric shelter's cover with our care tips and best practices.



**Garage-In-A-Box  
SUV/Truck™**



**Garage-In-A-Box®**



**ClearView®**



**AutoShelter®**



**Shed-In-A-Box®**

**ShelterLogic** fabric sheds, garages, and greenhouses are built strong and made to last, but several seasons of use can wear covers down. Proper maintenance and cleaning will preserve the condition and lifespan of the cover. Use this guide to properly care for the cover of your ShelterLogic fabric building.

## *Maintaining Your Cover:* **Everyday Maintenance Tips**



Cover tension is important to maintaining your building and extending its lifespan.

It's important to check cover tension regularly to ensure your cover is attached properly: not too tight, not too loose.



**Hint:** Cover should be snug and flexible to the touch.



**Pro-Tip:** Any time is the best time, just adjust the cover tightness at the start of each season.



How tight your cover sits on the frame of your building can change depending on the time of the year. **Why does this happen?** When your fabric cover gets warm, the kinetic energy of the material increases and causes it to expand. When material cools off, that kinetic energy decreases and causes the cover to shrink.

# Maintaining Your Cover: **Cover Tightening Checklist**



## How to Check and Adjust Cover Tension:



### **Schedule a building check-up when:**

- Seasons change (4x per year)
- There's a storm or significant inclement weather
- Dramatic temperature changes and fluctuation



### **Determine what type of building you have, and the cover tightening methods you'll need to reference:**

- Sliding cross rails   • Ratchet rails
- Lace connections



### **Tightening Your Cover Under Each Method:**

- Sliding cross rails   • Ratchet rails
- Lace connections



**Pro-Tip:** For a holistic building check-up, check your anchors while you're at it. Make sure your building is properly anchored! Reinforce / tighten anchors about once per season.

## *Maintaining Your Cover:* **Cover Tightening Checklist**

**Determine what type of building you have, and the cover tightening methods you'll need to reference:**

### **Sliding Cross Rails:**



**Tightening Method** - Loosen the clamps on the cross rail, pull the cover taught, and then retighten the cross rails.

- Shed-in-a-Box®
- Garage-in-a-Box®
- AutoShelter®

### **Lace Connections**



**Tightening Method** - Start at one end of the lacing and begin pulling the rope in sections toward the other end. When you get to the other end, untie it, pull the slack out, and re-tie that end.

- ClearView®



## *Maintaining Your Cover:* **Seasonal Maintenance Tips**

# QUARTERLY COVER CHECK-UP



### ☐ **Check ratchets to cover, and ratchets to end-panels:**

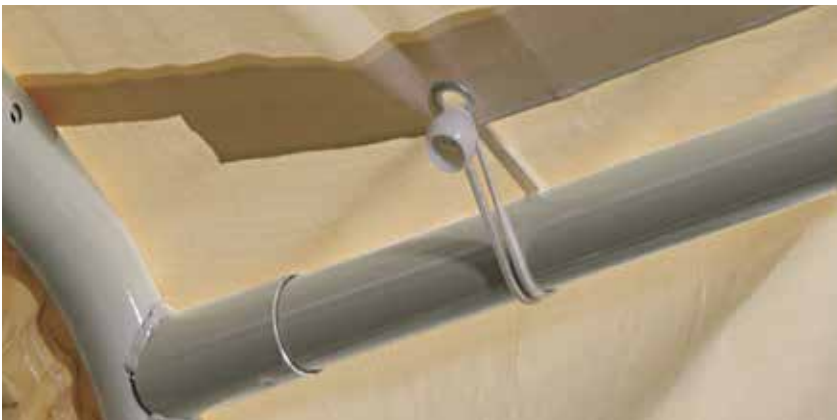
Ensure that there is no slack in the webbing. If you detect slack in webbing, we recommend giving the ratchet a couple of clicks. Check manual and pull it in here.

### ☐ **For Cover Tightness, Find the Sweet Spot:**

Cover should neither be attached too loosely nor too tightly. If you see a significant strain on the cover against the rib connections, your cover may be on too tightly.

### ☐ **For canopies and certain sheds and greenhouse units:**

Any bungees that seem at the end of their lifespan, check and replace as needed.



## *Snow and Accumulation Removal:* **Keeping Snow and Debris Off Your Building**

Avoid any accumulation on the surface of / roof of the shelter.  
This includes snow, water, debris, leaves, branches – anything.

### *How to safely remove snow and other debris:*



**1.** You should immediately and carefully remove any accumulated snow or ice from the roof using a broom, mop, or soft-sided tool. Do not use a sharp object like a rake or a shovel, which could damage the cover.



**2.** Always remove snow and ice from the OUTSIDE of the unit. Do not try to remove snow from inside the unit by poking the roof, as it could cause a puncture to the fabric. Do not bang the cover to remove snow in any way.



**3.** Branches should carefully be removed by hand to prevent punctures, rips, and tears to the fabric.



# *Maintaining Your Cover:*

## **Keeping Your Building and Cover Clean**



### **Why You Should Keep Your Cover Clean:**

- Cleaning building makes accumulation more difficult – snow / rain slides off more easily when building is clean.
- A clean cover can extend the life of your cover.
- A clean building looks great!



### **How often should I clean my cover?**

- Whenever there is debris, dirt, or other accumulated, you should clean your building as soon as possible.
- Cover clean frequency should depend in part on your geographic location. If you experience hot and humid or wet conditions, you may need to be more cognizant of dirt and debris, for example. However, cover should be cleaned at least once per year, both inside and out.
- Depending on your environmental conditions and geographic location, it is still possible for fungi to grow on dirt stuck to your cover. Our covers are treated not to allow fungi to grow directly on it. A clean cover will prevent fungi growth.



## *Maintaining Your Cover:* **Keeping Your Building and Cover Clean**

# HOW TO CLEAN YOUR COVER

**1.**

Use a solution of dishwashing detergent and warm water and a soft sponge or a brush to clean your building cover. You may rinse the solution off with water from a garden hose.

**2.**

Do NOT use ammonia-based products to clean the cover of your unit.

**3.**

In order to prevent damage and puncturing the fabric of your unit, we do NOT recommend using a brush with a sharp edges or blunt corners or pressure washers to clean your cover.

**4.**

Both the inside AND outside of your cover should be cleaned. While more debris can be visible on the outside of buildings, we see units with debris on the inside the building as well.

## *Maintaining Your Cover:* **Repairing and Reducing Rips and Tears**

If you notice a tear or rip in your cover or unit, we recommend repairing it as soon as possible. This will prevent additional tearing and extend the life of the cover.



### **Keep doors zipped whenever possible:**

If the doors are left unzipped, it also creates added tensioning on the zipper that could cause damage.



**Pro-Tip:** We recommend you use transparent Duct Tape, which is available for sale on our website, to repair open holes and exposed tears.

## *Maintaining Your Cover:*

# **COVER** **MAINTENANCE**

**With proper maintenance  
your cover will last you  
many, many years.**

The lifespan of your cover depends on your commitment to maintenance of your unit. Many of our customers have seen their units serve them for many, many years and last them through even some very tough weather conditions. Proper maintenance will keep your cover looking great and extend the life of the cover.

