

DOMETIC UK BLIND SYSTEMS LTD.

# CARE AND ADVICE

INFORMATION TO MAINTAIN YOUR BLINDS AND SOFT  
FURNISHINGS, INCLUDING CHILD SAFETY ADVICE.

 DOMETIC





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# BLIND MAINTENANCE

**ALWAYS ENSURE YOUR BLINDS ARE FULLY RAISED BEFORE COMMENCING WINDOW CLEANING. THIS WILL PREVENT SPLATTER OR SPRAYS OF WATER OR DETERGENT FROM SPOILING THE BLIND FABRIC.**

Dometic blinds require minimal care and cleaning, however we advise regular dusting of your blinds to keep them looking their best. Your blinds will also benefit from occasional vacuuming, ensuring no dust remains trapped within the folds of the fabric.



## **SKYSOL RANGE**

### **1. PLEATED FABRICS**

To keep your blinds and shades looking as fresh as the day you bought them, here are some simple to follow tips on caring for your blind.

### **2. DUSTING**

Regular, light dusting maintains the appearance of your blinds and shades.

CAUTION: Do not use magnetic cleaners such as a dusting mitt on privacy fabrics. This will damage the light-dimming backing.

CAUTION: Do not grease, oil or lubricate the blind unit, lubricants will damage the fabric.

### **3. VACUUMING**

Vacuum gently using the brush attachment on any vacuum cleaner. We recommend using a vertical stroke with your vacuum.

CAUTION: Be careful not to crease the fabric when using a brush attachment. We would recommend using the blowing technique for sheer pleated blinds.

### **4. BLOWING**

Blowing excess dust off your fabric can be an efficient way of cleaning your blinds. We recommend using a can of compressed air or a hair dryer on a cool setting.

### **5. SPOT CLEANING**

Spot-clean with a soft cloth, moistened with warm water, and add a mild detergent if needed. We recommend using a mild detergent (no additives and non-abrasive) and a clean, white cloth. Blot gently to avoid creasing or damaging the fabric.

We recommend testing any cleaning agents on a hidden area of the blind first.

CAUTION: Rubbing can damage fabrics.

CAUTION: Spot-cleaning may result in cleaner areas than the surrounding.

CAUTION: Do not use this method on Honeycomb Blackout fabrics

### **6. REMOVING BUGS**

To prevent damage to delicate fabrics, do not use any type of stick, wand or handle to push out anything caught in your blinds. We recommend gently blowing out using either a can of compressed air or a hair dryer on a cool setting.

### **6. PLEATEDSHADE FABRIC**

Fabric may be cleaned with a foam upholstery cleaner, or for light cleaning use water and a sponge, rubbing gently in the direction parallel with the pleats. If the blind gets wet, pull out the blind fully and leave to dry naturally.



## ROLLERBLIND RANGE

Dometic roller blinds and shades require minimal care and cleaning, however we advise regular dusting of your blinds to keep them looking their best. Your blinds will also benefit from occasional vacuuming, ensuring no dust remains trapped, which could spoil the fabric. Always handle your blind with care, and a clean pair of hands.

### 1. DUSTING

Regular, light dusting maintains the appearance of your blinds and shades. Here are our top tips for dusting:

- Fully deploy the blind to first dust the fabric, and gently dust the head box, if applicable.
- Fully stow the blind to dust around side tracks or guide wires.
- Gentle sweeping motions with a feather duster are appropriate.
- Always dust the window or portlight that the blind is situated on, while the blind is stowed. This will ensure no dust is immediately transferred back to the blind when next deployed.

CAUTION: Do not use magnetic cleaners such as a dusting mitt on privacy fabrics. This will damage the light-dimming backing.

CAUTION: Do not grease, oil or lubricate the blind unit, lubricants will damage the fabric.

### 2. VACUUMING

Vacuum gently using the brush attachment on any vacuum cleaner. We recommend using a vertical stroke with your vacuum. As with the dusting method, it is always a good idea to vacuum the portlight, hatch or window that the blind is situated on, ensuring the blind is stowed for this.

CAUTION: Be careful not to crease the fabric when using a brush attachment.

### 3. BLOWING

Blowing excess dust off your fabric can be an efficient way of cleaning your blinds. We recommend using a can of compressed air or a hair dryer on a cool setting. This method is particularly useful for Skyview blinds, where the fabric is delicate and folded.

### 4. SPOT CLEANING

Spot-clean with a soft cloth, moistened with warm water, and add a mild detergent if needed. We recommend using a mild detergent (no additives and non-abrasive) and a clean, white cloth.

- Blot gently to avoid creasing or damaging the fabric.
- Always leave the blind deployed to dry thoroughly.

**We recommend testing any cleaning agents on a hidden area of the blind first.**

CAUTION: Rubbing can damage fabrics, do not scrub.

CAUTION: Spot-cleaning may result in cleaner areas than the surrounding.

CAUTION: Do not soak the blinds.

### 5. REMOVING BUGS

To prevent damage to delicate fabrics, do not use any type of stick, wand or handle to push out anything caught in your blinds. We recommend gently blowing out using either a can of compressed air or a hair dryer on a cool setting.

### 6. PLANT-BASED ERASER

For our SKYSHADES and SKYSCREEN roller fabrics, you can use a plant-based eraser or India rubber to remove small marks and superficial stains.







## **SKYVENETIAN RANGE**

We advise regular dusting of your blinds to keep them looking their best. Your blinds will also benefit from occasional vacuuming, ensuring no dust remains trapped on the cording and ladders.

Below you will find more information on caring for Real Leathers, Faux Leathers, Aluminium Slats and Dometic Blinds Wood slats.

### **1. LEATHER - FAUX LEATHER**

- The vinyl should be cleaned periodically in order to maintain its appearance and prevent build-up of dirt and contaminants.
- Any stain, spills, or soiling should be cleaned up promptly to prevent the possibility of permanent staining.
- Use soft soapy solutions or special cleaning products for vinyl fabrics to remove stains on the surface of the material. Remove only with a damp white cloth.

CAUTION: Lacquers, strong cleaners, detergents, xylene-based solutions, acetone, or MEK cause immediate damage and contribute to the deterioration of the material.

### **2. LEATHER - REAL LEATHER**

Due to the nature of leather, colour and texture variations may occur. Leather is a natural product, with each hide individual; therefore, growth marks, scars, variations in grain and other natural characteristics which add to the beauty of real leather and should not be regarded as a defect.

We recommend following the below steps to care for your leather, and keep it looking as good as new.

Frequently dust with a soft, clean, white cloth or Vacuum with a soft brush head. Clean the whole blind occasionally with mild, lukewarm soapy water taking care not to soak the leather (soap flakes should be used) to prevent dirt build up. Wipe away any stains with a soft damp cloth as soon as they occur.

CAUTION: Keep away from sources of excessive heat, i.e. fires or close to radiators

CAUTION: Do not use furniture polishes or waxes, household detergents or solvents on real leather

### **2. ALLOY**

Dusting mittens or gloves can be useful for cleaning the smaller Aluminium slats, enabling you to dust the curved underside of the slats relatively easily.

CAUTION: Be careful not to bend the slats, this can cause permanent damage

### **2. WOOD**

Regular, light dusting maintains the appearance of your blinds and shades. Alternatively, use a vacuum with brush head.

Dusting mittens or gloves can be useful for cleaning the 25mm wood slats, enabling you to dust the curved underside of the slats relatively easily.

Clean the whole blind occasionally with mild, lukewarm soapy water taking care not to soak the leather (soap flakes should be used) to prevent dirt build up. Wipe away any stains with a soft damp cloth as soon as they occur.





## **SOFT FURNISHINGS**

### **1. RECOMMENDATIONS**

All our soft furnishing fabrics are DRY CLEAN ONLY. For custom fabrics, please refer to the fabric manufacturer's guidelines.

## **PROFESSIONAL CLEANING**

### **1. RECOMMENDATIONS**

You may wish to hire a professional cleaner to tend to your blinds, in this instance, Dometic Blinds cannot take responsibility for any method or cleaning solution used by a cleaning company, the responsibility as such will lie with the service provider.





# PRODUCT IDENTIFICATION

**PRODUCT IDENTIFICATION STICKERS HELP MAKE REPLACEMENT PARTS EASY TO ORDER, AS WELL AS HELPING US DEAL WITH ANY OTHER VARIOUS REQUESTS**

Each Dometic Blinds product will have a Product Identification Sticker. Please **DO NOT** remove this sticker. The product sticker tells us all the information we need to know about your blind and will help you to order like for like blinds, or replace parts in the future.





<b>Job ID: 178794-01-1</b> <b>Dometic UK Blind Systems Limited</b> <b>Customer Part Number: SFSS-60-W</b>	<table border="1"><tr><td>CHKD</td></tr></table>	CHKD
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<b>SFSS-60-R42-W</b>	<b>Week No: 44/2019</b>	

**PRODUCT IDENTIFICATION STICKERS**

Product stickers will be found on the reverse of the blind, on or in the headbox. Stickers are positioned so that they are not visible when the blind is installed, so that you do not need to remove the sticker.

This however does mean that you will most likely need to remove your blind from its position to view the sticker. Simply un-clip from brackets, or unscrew fixing screws (Dependant on blind type).

**SPARES AND REPLACEMENTS**

[www.dometic.com/en-gb/uk/support/spare-parts](http://www.dometic.com/en-gb/uk/support/spare-parts)





# **CHILD SAFETY**

**TAKING EXTRA STEPS TO ENSURE PEACE OF MIND WITH CHILDREN  
AROUND BLINDS**

Internal window blinds can pose a risk to babies and small children who could injure or strangle themselves on looped operating cords and chains. Every blind leaving the Dometic Blinds factory meets current child safety regulations, but we have gone the extra mile to produce a range of blinds that go above and beyond these standards.



# CHILD SAFETY

New European Standard EN 13120 for Internal Blinds was published in February 2014. The standard has been updated from the publication made in 2009, to include new requirements for improved child safety. Two new standards detailing associated test procedures were published at the same time; EN 16433 and EN 16434.

Risk of strangulation to babies and young children arises where internal blinds incorporate accessible cords that can form a hazardous loop and/or present a risk of entanglement. Hazardous loops can be formed by the pull cords and/or by the inner cords. The risk of strangulation shall be minimised by eliminating the hazardous loop, either by use of a breakaway system or by use of a fixed tensioning system.

Significant changes include:

- The elimination of potential strangulation hazards (loops).
- Location of any hazards out of child reach (above 1.5 metres).
- Elimination of sharp edges/corners and potential choking hazards, such as loose small parts.

A key part of the standard is a change in the length of operating cords, which has become dependent on the installation height and the appropriate child safety features. There will be instances where it is not possible to meet all the above requirements. If this is the case, a different child safe blind must be used.

All blinds installed by Dometic Blinds must abide by all the above criteria, or installation will not be possible. If blinds are not installed by Dometic Blinds, is the responsibility of the boat builder to ensure these criteria are met. Internal blinds presenting no hazardous loops and no hazardous cords are deemed to satisfy the requirements of this clause. There is also an 'opt out' clause, for any customers not wishing to install child safety devices.

Internal window blinds can pose a risk to babies and small children who could injure or strangle themselves on looped operating cords and chains. Every blind leaving the Dometic Blinds factory meets current child safety regulations, but we have gone the extra mile to produce a range of blinds that go above and beyond these standards.

## Making your existing blinds safer

If you have a window blind which has an operating cord or chain that could form a loop you must keep it out of the reach of babies and young children. There are a range of safety devices available for every type of blind.

### Chain-break connector

These will break apart when undue pressure is applied on the operating chain but, after inspection, can be reconnected again. Chain sizes vary so you **must** use the chain-break connector which is designed to be used with your specific chain.



### Cord/Chain tidys & tensioners

These devices should be securely fixed to an adjacent surface and at the maximum distance from the top of the blind so the cords and/or chains are held permanently taut by the device.



### Cleat

This should be securely fixed to an adjacent surface out of the reach of children and at least 1.5 metres from the floor. The cords must be secured in a figure of eight after each and every operation of the blind. Ensure all spare cord is securely contained on the cleat.



Young children can be strangled by loops in pull cords, chains, tapes and inner cords that operate the product. To avoid strangulation and entanglement, keep cords out of the reach of young children. Cords may become wrapped around a child's neck.

Make sure all cords and chains are always secured out of reach of babies and young children. Do not tie cords or chains together. Make sure cords or chains do not twist and create a loop.



Move beds, cots, highchairs and playpens away from window covering cords and chains.



Move furniture away from window covering cords and chains as children love to climb.



## MAKE IT SAFE WEBSITE

[www.makeitsafe.org.uk](http://www.makeitsafe.org.uk)

## Safe by Design Blinds

There are Safe by Design options for:  
Roller | Venetian | Vertical | Pleated | Roman

Blinds come in an endless range of colours and finishes but when buying new blinds for your home, you must consider the way they are operated.

### Safe by Design

A blind which is Safe by Design is one that is cordless or has concealed or tensioned cords.

- Usually these blinds are pushed or pulled into position
- Motorised blinds can also remove the need for operating cords at the side of the blind
- Wooden shutters and external blinds are other cordless styles of window dressing

Always consider these blind styles first when choosing your blinds.



Wired operated vertical blinds - pushed and pulled into position by the wand which when retracted lifts the louvers



Venetian blinds can be raised, lowered and tilted by hand without operating cords and chains



Spring operated roller blind - some styles operate with a decelerator so the blind retracts at a constant, gentle speed



Tensioned pleated blind - all cords are held under tension and the blind is just pushed or pulled into position



Shutters are opened and closed by hand



Motorised roller blinds are easy to operate and have no cords or chains - some are battery operated too so do not need connecting to the mains

### Built-in safety systems

Built-in safety systems are those that are built into the product and so do not require additional installation or operation in use.

Some window sizes or shapes may not lend themselves to cordless window blinds or you may specifically wish to co-ordinate with your existing blinds. If this is the case then choose a blind style with a built-in safety device, such as a chain break connector where the chain is designed to separate under any undue pressure. Breakaway tassels at the bottom of cords work in the same way.

Note: By law there are limitations on cord and chain lengths for built-in safety systems.



A breakaway device on the cords of a roman blind. The blind raises and lowers normally but cords will separate under undue loads



Chain break connector will part under any undue load but after inspection can be clipped back together again

### Separate safety systems

Separate safety systems are those that require additional installation and/or operation in use. If cordless options or those with built-in safety devices are not suitable for your specific situation then the only alternative is to use a blind with a separate safety device such as a tensioning system or an accumulation device like a cleat. Make sure the device is securely fitted and always used.

Note: By law there are limitations on cord and chain lengths for separate safety systems. Fixing height limitations also apply.



Cord and chain tensioner for vertical blinds to hold cord and chain taut



Chain tensioner to hold a single chain or cord taut

See the Make it Safe video for more options

[www.makeitsafe.org.uk](http://www.makeitsafe.org.uk)