

A Guide to Fabsil

How much area will Fabsil/Fabsil Gold Cover?

The coverage of Fabsil depends on the weight of the material it is applied to.

- For lightweight nylon materials (often used in tents) the coverage can be 15-18 sq metres per litre.
- For lightweight canvas materials, the coverage will be around 7-10 sq metres per litre
- For medium weight canvas it will be 5-7sq metres per litre.

What is the best way of applying Fabsil/Fabsil Gold?

Once cleaned, apply the product to a small area, to ensure you're happy with the finish before applying to the whole tent.

The best way to apply Fabsil is with a clean paint brush. Decanting into a spray mechanism would also be an option however applying with a spray can lead to sections of the article being missed.

How long will Fabsil/Fabsil Gold take to dry?

Unfortunately, there is no specific answer, as this depends on the weight of the fabric, amount of Fabsil applied and the temperature at which the treated article is dried at. As a rough guide, we would recommend allowing several hours before exposing the treated article to moisture even if the fabric feels dry to the touch.

What can I use to clean my paint brushes after using Fabsil/Fabsil Gold?

A. We would recommend cleaning brushes with a mineral spirit (such as white spirit) which can be purchased from most DIY retailers.

Will Fabsil/Fabsil Gold change the appearance of my fabric?

The product is applied neat and does not need to be thinned. It will dry clear and keep the original look of the fabric.

Q. Is Fabsil/Fabsil Gold suitable for re-proofing my car soft-top?

A. Fabsil/Fabsil Gold will be suitable for most canvas and other fabric hoods. For car soft tops we normally recommend Fabsil gold as it has a much higher concentration of silicone therefore is more durable.

Ensure that Fabsil is applied to a clean, dry surface and that enough drying time is left before exposing the hood to any moisture. Use masking tape to avoid spillage on the paintwork and glass, as this will leave streaky marks when it dries.

When dried, excess Fabsil can be removed from non-absorbent surfaces using a small amount of white spirit.

The coverage for thick canvas and soft top cars is approx. 5 meters square per Litre of Fabsil, so 1L will usually be enough to re-proof a car soft top.

Q. What is the difference between Fabsil Universal and Fabsil Gold?

A. Fabsil universal and Fabsil gold should produce similar results although there are slight differences in the two. Fabsil Universal has a lower concentration of active ingredient and contains UV inhibitor, Fabsil Gold contains 5x higher concentration of active ingredient but no UV inhibitor. Fabsil gold is most appropriate when the canvas, fabric or tent will be outside all year round as it is more durable.

Can you get Fabsil in larger quantities?

Fabsil is available for bulk purchase (25L drums) and can be either painted on or sprayed on using a paint sprayer

Do you have any product suitable for removing mould or mildew from tents and awnings?

Unfortunately, Grangers do not manufacture any product designed to remove mould or mildew. Any such product will have a detrimental effect to the water repellency of the fabric as well as the performance of any subsequent water repellent treatment. We would suggest treating the mould/mildew with a suitable product sourced from your local outdoor retailer before cleaning and reproofing. Before re-proofing we would highly recommend cleaning the treated article with Fabsil Tent Gear Cleaner to remove any trace of residue left behind by the mould/mildew product before reproofing with Fabsil/Fabsil Gold.

If a customer says Fabsil didn't work, ask them these questions:

This considered, we would like to outline what we deem to be common contributors to ineffective proofing in the hope that this identifies the cause of the problem.

- Application to damp material
- Insufficient drying time before packing or exposure to water. Even though materials may appear dry to the touch, complete drying will take several hours depending on the weight of the material
- Residual surface residue within the treated article – dirt, dust, mould/mildew, residual cleaning additives all can affect the performance of Fabsil.
- Age of material, general wear and tear, weave of fabric, leaking seems.
- Weight and duration of water contact – during heavy, prolonged downpours the weight of the water may still penetrate material treated with Fabsil. Fabsil should be viewed as a surface treatment rather than a physical barrier. Water may still be able to pass if the material is exposed to particularly challenging environments.
- For materials which are challenging to treat, a second application of Fabsil may be required to achieve the desired level of water repellency.

If you feel you have satisfied the requirements above, please could you reproof a small section of the awning (0.5m² roughly). Once sufficient drying time has been given the surface can be sprayed with water to see if the repellency has been restored.