



## Shade

### Seeking Shade

**Trees and hedges can provide excellent shade in any setting.** How much shade will depend on the density of the kinds of plants in the area. Deciduous trees that are native to Canada will provide excellent sun protection while their leaves are out. As they mature, they will provide large, thick coverings of leaves that will block UV rays. Examples of these kinds of trees include:

- Poplar
- Maple,
- Willow
- Mountain Ash
- Dogwood
- Oak
- Cherry
- Birch
- Elm.



Coniferous trees like **hemlock, pine, spruce, cedar, larch and fir** can be used for year-round protection when the sun is not at its highest. Remember, these types of trees do not have natural canopies that provide midday shade.

Tall buildings can also provide shade throughout the day, but as the sun moves across the sky, the location of the shade will vary.

### Building your own shade

**Stand-alone structures, like a tent, or gazebo** are an easy and cost-effective way to add shade to an outdoor setting.



Adding an awning to the side of a building is another option to add shade. A retractable awning will allow you to adjust the protection you want according to the sun's location. The colour and thickness of the awning material is important to consider. Thick, tightly woven material in dark colours will provide the most effective protection. Awnings can be used



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year-round, but many are easily removed and stored away during the winter.