

Taking Care of your American Flag



Preventative Maintenance

Regularly inspect your flag for wear and loose stitching. Consider having three flags on hand and rotate them for cleaning or repair. Many drycleaners will make repairs for your convenience.



American Flag Repair

Nylon and Polyester Flags 6' x 10' and larger are worth repairing. You may repair your flag until the point that the flag no longer resembles its original rectangular shape. If your flag is faded, it probably should be retired.



American Flag Cleaning

American flags eventually become soiled. Clean your flag when needed by taking it to the drycleaners or washing it with cold water and soap. Allow the flag to air dry flat or hanging.



Check Your Halyard

Replacing worn halyard before it breaks is easy and inexpensive. Once it breaks your flag may be damaged and you will incur expenses for a lift truck and potential landscaping repair.



Flying Flags in Winter and Spring

The windy months are hard on your flags. Consider adding reinforced corners and stitching or flying a smaller size flag to improve flag life during this time.



Remove Flags before High Winds

If you are able to remove flags before storms or periods of rain and snow, consider removing the flag to prevent damage.



Choose a Location Away from Trees and Cables

If your American flag brushes against cables or branches, you will experience early failure and will need to replace often.



Correct Flagpole Size

The length of the flag should be about 1/4 to 1/3 the height of the pole.

- 20 ft pole – 3' x 5' or 4' x 6'
- 25 ft pole – 4' x 6' or 5' x 8'
- 30 ft pole – 5' x 8' or 6' x 10'
- 35 ft pole – 6' x 10' or 8' x 12'

Properly Dispose of the American Flag

Proper Flag etiquette according to the U.S. Flag Code states that a flag should not be flown any longer if it is no longer fit to serve as a symbol of our country and should be destroyed. Several civic organizations will take and dispose of your worn U.S. flag: The American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Boy and Girl Scouts of America and The US Military.



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