

Wind Performance of Ziptrak[®] Blinds

Thank you for your interest in Ziptrak[®].

Ziptrak[®] blinds are trusted by thousands of Australian homes and businesses to provide an enjoyable outdoor living space. The strong and robust system is commonly installed throughout coastal regions and locations prone to high winds.

We have completed wind loading testing with the University of Adelaide, with the following results:

“Calculations of wind loading based on static weight have been conducted on a 2.5m x 2.5m café blind manufactured by Ziptrak. The results indicate that a 2.5m x 2.5m blind with 100% blockage ratio and using aluminium rivets in accordance with manufacturers installation instructions can withstand a wind loading of over 82.4km/hr. Using Stainless steel rivets increases this loading to over 139.0km/hr.

A blind measuring 2.5m x 3.5m and using aluminium rivets can be expected to withstand a wind loading of 69.6km/hr. Using stainless steel rivets, this wind loading increases to 117.4km.hr.”

Accordingly, we advise that in windy conditions, blinds should be left down and locked, or fully retracted – half way is the most vulnerable position. During severe weather events, your blinds should be fully retracted. Please note, the figures above are not a wind rating. Common sense must be utilised, as every installation is unique and localised wind conditions should be considered. Ziptrak[®] is not designed to block severe weather, they are a shelter and shade system for standard weather events. Our system is uniquely qualified to withstand strong winds, due to our patented side spline. Large blinds are less capable of handling high wind. Clear PVC which completely traps wind, is also less capable than a mesh surface.

Installation is crucial to determining the performance of your blind in wind. For commercial applications, and in areas with concern of wind, we recommend a greater number of fixings to the structure, and stainless steel rivets be utilised between the track and channel.

You may find Ziptrak[®] spring-balanced blinds are a little tricky to operate during windy conditions due to the pressure of the wind on the blind material. Use your hand to push against the blind material to reduce this pressure and then operate the blind.

Care must be taken when operating motorized Ziptrak[®] blinds in windy conditions. They must be supervised whilst raising and lowering at all times.

Please feel free to call with any additional questions.

Kind regards,

The Ziptrak[®] Team