

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: Why Urban Umbrella?

A: Urban Umbrella is the designer, patent holder, and fabricator of the only alternative sidewalk shed on the market that is approved by the New York City Department of Buildings (NYCDOB) and rated for 300 PSF. We are the sole provider of white glove service in the scaffolding industry, delivering excellent customer service, rapid communication, and a dedicated maintenance team to keep your installation in pristine condition throughout its duration. Each project is meticulously planned and executed down to the smallest detail. We operate 24 hours a day and no client need is too small.

Q: Why is Urban Umbrella safer than the current scaffolding on the market?

A: Traditional scaffolding is based on antiquated engineering standards and made with low-quality materials continually used well past their prime. Because the majority of the industry is focused on speed and profit margins instead of safety, corners are cut to save money. The first new sidewalk shed design on the market in over 50 years, Urban Umbrella has been scrutinized and analyzed to the strictest engineering standards. Each project goes through a comprehensive engineering review to ensure its structural integrity and durability. We fabricate our material inhouse so that we can make sure the quality of our steel surpasses that of our competition. Safety is our number one concern: Our clients never have to question the soundness or security of our product.

Q: Why is Urban Umbrella's scaffolding white when most other scaffolding is green?

A: New York City municipal code states that all scaffolding must be "hunter green," with one exception: Urban Umbrella. After winning New York City's scaffolding design competition in 2009, Urban Umbrella became the only scaffolding company authorized by the NYCDOB to produce shedding in alternate colors. Urban Umbrella's signature color, white, is designated only for Urban Umbrella usage. In fact, the New York City Municipal Building Code (2021) Chapter 33 § 3307.6.4.11 states that only "sidewalk sheds that are of a model whose prototype won a design competition recognized by the city may be white in color." This refers solely to Urban Umbrella.

Q: Are Urban Umbrellas only used as scaffolding?

A: No, the Urban Umbrella is a dynamic structure that meets a variety of needs. Urban Umbrellas have been used as patio canopies, weather-proof, heated outdoor spaces for both dining and retail queues, and as interior work/protection platforms.

Q: Is Urban Umbrella available outside New York City? Does it meet other code requirements?

A: Yes, we have multiple projects in Canada and in other major cities across the United States including Boston, Chicago, and Stamford. As a New York City based company, we abide by the DOB's stringent municipal codes regarding scaffolding, the strictest out of any city on the planet. Therefore, the Urban Umbrella always exceeds code requirements elsewhere.

Q: Can pipe scaffolding be installed atop Urban Umbrellas?

A: Yes. The Urban Umbrella system is NYCDOB approved for 300 PSF, which allows for the installation of pipe scaffolding, drop scaffolds, construction stages, rigging stands, and more. If pipe scaffolding is installed atop an Urban Umbrella, the decking will be outfitted with landing platforms utilizing OSHA planks, providing a secure connection between the pipe scaffold and sidewalk shed.

Q: Is Urban Umbrella available outside of NYC? If so, does it meet other code requirements?

A: Yes, we have multiple projects in Canada and other major cities in the US. Since New York has the most stringent standards for this type of structure, it is more than adequate to meet the standards of other cities in the US and beyond.

Q: Does Urban Umbrella also offer traditional scaffolding?

A: Urban Umbrella can provide traditional sidewalk sheds in instances when clients do not wish to use the Urban Umbrella for the entirety of a job. These situations include but are not limited to alleyways, side streets, and other lower visibility portions of jobs that do not necessitate the higher aesthetic standard the Urban Umbrella provides. Urban Umbrella can satisfy any temporary structure needs.

Q: Can Urban Umbrella span garages and entrances?

A: Yes, Urban Umbrella can adapt to any site conditions and build spans up to 40' in length at any required height. Urban Umbrellas can span garages, awnings, marquees, gateways, building entrances, and MTA stairs/elevators/portals.

Q: Does Urban Umbrella only provide one type of decking?

A: No, we offer two types. One utilizes heavy-duty steel grating and transparent polycarbonate, maximizing natural lighting for pedestrians and ground-floor tenants. The other comprises OSHA wood decking with glossy white panels underneath, ideal for projects with pipe scaffolding above. The white panels reflect lighting for a brighter path below and keep the timber decking and pipe scaffold out of sight from the street.

Q: Can I advertise on Urban Umbrella?

A: Yes, we have a variety of signage options so that your Urban Umbrella can promote your business in a fresh and creative way. Parapet signage is the most common, but we have multiple other options, including hanging signs and advertising space for pedestrians underneath our shed.

Q: How much more expensive is Urban Umbrella when compared to traditional scaffolding?

A: With a premium product comes a premium-level price point: Urban Umbrella sidewalk sheds typically run about 300% more than traditional sidewalk sheds.

Q: Does Urban Umbrella service emergency jobs?

A: Yes, Urban Umbrella is able to service emergency jobs on an emergency timeline 24/7 365 days a year.

Q: Can Urban Umbrellas be installed on union projects?

A: Yes, we have both union and non-union installation partners so that our product can be placed at any location.

Q: What add-ons and customizations does Urban Umbrella offer?

A: Many. Urban Umbrella offers a whole host of optional add-ons and customizations. Customizations include decking type, shed height, specialty rounded corners, parapet signage and design, hanging signage and design, under-decking signage, column coloration, LED lighting coloration and design (operable via remote control), and illuminated/non-illuminated parapet lettering. Add-ons include our Kit of Parts, which features heaters, fans, speakers, sanitization stations, floor decals, signage, planters, barricades, trash receptacles, plastic curtains, partitions, and security cameras (via Urban Networks, a new branch of Urban Umbrella).

Q: How quickly can Urban Umbrella mobilize for a new job?

A: Urban Umbrella can typically mobilize and be ready for install within 48 hours of first call. However, in emergency circumstances, that timeline can be and often is accelerated.

Q: Does Urban Umbrella offer 600 PSF sidewalk sheds?

A: Yes, the same Urban Umbrella system used in the 300 PSF system can be modified by our in-house structural engineers to support a 600 PSF load.

Q: Is the Urban Umbrella system leak-proof?

A: Both of Urban Umbrella's decking options are leak-proof. Urban Umbrella utilizes engineered waterproofing technology to ensure pedestrians and others are kept dry underneath our product.

