



WHAT MAKES THE TAKE COVER SHELTER COVER WORK—AND LAST

When we set out to design a better shelter cover, the brief was simple and stubborn: create a top layer that keeps debris and pests out, allows the shelter to breathe, is easy for families to lift and stow, and stands up to daily wear (including a car driving over it) for years — not months. Hitting all those targets required more than one good idea; it required careful materials selection, purposeful construction details, and lots of real-world testing. Below is a non-proprietary look under the hood: the design thinking, the material qualities we prioritized, and why those choices matter for safety and long-term usability.

What we were solving for (the material checklist)

- Breathability—allow vapor and moisture to escape so humidity and condensation don't build up under the cover.
- Particle & pest barrier—keep leaves, grit, insects, and small critters from getting into the hatch area.
- Tear/abrasion resistance—survive repeated foot and vehicle traffic, occasional dropped tools, and rough handling.
- UV & weather resistance—survive sun, rain, and temperature cycles without embrittling or losing strength.
- Low weight + managed stiffness—light enough to lift easily, but shaped so it won't billow or flap in wind.
- Cleanability & aesthetics—easy to sweep or hose off and visually tidy in a garage setting.

What “breathable” actually means for a shelter cover

We define breathable here the way outdoor pros do: a fabric that stops bulk solids and debris from passing through, but still lets water vapor diffuse. That minimizes trapped humidity and lowers the chance of condensation, mold, and corrosion on hatch hardware. Many waterproof tarps solve the water problem by sealing everything—and that's the problem: sealing traps moisture. So we intentionally pursue a controlled-airflow solution rather than an impermeable one.



The primary face material: technical mesh with a lot of intention

After testing dozens of options we landed on a high-performance, tightly woven polymer mesh—think the durability of premium outdoor screening and the weather resistance of marine fabrics, but tuned for shelter use. Key advantages:

- Very high tensile and tear resistance for its weight, so it resists snags and rips even under vehicle contact.
- Engineered pore size: small enough to block bugs and grit, large enough to let vapor escape.
- UV stabilization so color and strength don't degrade quickly in sun.
- A hand that's flexible (rolls easily) but not floppy (stays put).

Perimeter engineering: sewn border + binding that matters

A fabric is only as strong as the edge where it takes load. We found early prototypes failed at the margins: webbing alone frayed, cheap bindings separated, and repeated rolling introduced creases that weakened stitchlines. The final cover uses a multi-layer sewn perimeter that combines a high-tenacity binding tape with a reinforced stitch pattern. The result is an edge that transfers loads into the body of the fabric rather than into a single stitch line—which is why the cover stays put and resists tearing even when a vehicle drives over it repeatedly.

Hardware and webbing choices

Structural points (lift loops, hand-hold reinforcements, and attachment points) use industry-grade webbing and backed stitch plates so the load disperses into multiple threads rather than a single stitch. These areas are over-engineered deliberately—they experience the most concentrated force when people lift or pull the cover.

Sourcing & quality assurance (what we can say)

We source materials from established textile suppliers with experience in outdoor and marine applications. Every production lot is inspected and batches are subjected to a suite of durability checks (visual, dimensional, and functional).

Maintenance, cleaning, and longevity

One of the design goals was low maintenance. The cover is intentionally easy to brush off, hose down, or sweep. The face fabric resists staining and will not hold water; the binding and sewn edges are treated and selected to resist rot. With ordinary lift-and-brush maintenance the cover is designed to serve for years—and to reduce the amount of time families must spend inside the hatch cleaning and de-puzzling critter issues.



Limited Lifetime Warranty

Take Cover LLC will replace any shelter cover manufactured by us, provided the purchaser uses the product for its intended use, which use is expressly limited to an in-garage underground storm shelter and our associated usage guide.

CLAIMS PROCEDURE: To make a claim under this LIMITED WARRANTY, the purchaser must notify Take Cover LLC immediately upon knowledge of a torn, cut, punctured, or unraveling shelter cover that compromises the integrity or functionality of the cover. Upon notification, a representative of Take Cover LLC will request photographs of the damaged shelter cover. If a repair/replace determination cannot be made from the photograph(s), arrangements will be made to ship the cover to Take Cover LLC, at no cost to the purchaser.

Why this matters to you

A shelter is only useful if people will actually use it. Design that ignores daily usability—how easy it is to lift, how clean it looks, how often it must be scrubbed—creates friction. Our materials and construction choices are meant to remove that friction: a breathable, rugged top layer that keeps the hatch clean, keeps vents working, and makes families comfortable using the shelter without a lot of prep work.

A better cover is part product engineering and part empathy—designing for the real ways families live, day after day. That's where the materials matter most. We're proud of our product and think it solves the problem we set out to tackle. Our customers agree too. But don't take our word for it. Try our breathable shelter cover today, and experience the difference.

Learn more about our cover!

We're a small business, and your recommendation means the world to us.



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