

## *The Awning Buyer's Guide*

- ✓ Three signs your home could use a retractable awning.
- ✓ Top 10 reasons that make retractable awnings so impressive.
- ✓ Five important things to consider when buying a retractable awning.
- ✓ Why retractable awnings are growing in popularity with homeowners.
- ✓ How conventional awnings can add that extra touch to your home.
- ✓ How commercial awnings increase eye appeal and give you constant visibility for your business.
- ✓ What you should know about Creative and Perfecta Awnings!

## *Three Signs Your Home Could Use A Retractable Awning*

- 1) **You have a balcony, deck, patio, or other backyard living area that feels like the Sahara when the sun comes up.** A lot of homeowners design outdoor living spaces for their homes, visualizing cool afternoons, outdoor meals, and energized play times with the kids. Sadly, a lot of people fail to take a central factor into consideration, the sun. When maintenance-free decks, wood decks, and concrete patios are caught in the direct sunlight without protection, they become about as people-friendly as a midday desert, and the vision for a great multi-use, outdoor area never gets realized except in the momentary cool mornings and evenings. Harmful and scorching rays do not promote health and relaxation.
- 2) **Uncontrolled sunlight often overheats the interior of your home. Do you often find yourself closing blinds to cool a room? Does direct light from the sliding door and windows have a tendency to bleach your home's furnishings?** If you install retractable awnings over your sliding door and windows, you'll benefit in several ways: First, you'll be able to stop closing your blinds, which will give your rooms a more open, inviting atmosphere. Second, you'll save your furniture and walls from getting bleached by the sun. Third, you'll save significantly on the utility bills, since studies by the American Society of Heating and Air Conditioning Engineers show that awnings can lower interior temperatures in your home by 15 degrees and save you over 30 percent on air conditioning costs.
- 3) **You could use some additional living space.** While window awnings are often installed on second and third stories, perhaps their most common use occurs at ground level. Since retractable awnings can be as large as 13 feet projection in length and 35 feet wide, investing in a full size retractable awning expands the living space of a home into the outdoors. Some homeowners use retractable awnings to extend the colors of their interior, creating an outdoor room. That means more room to relax, unwind, and entertain. With a low initial cost and a half-day of installation, retractable awnings are a smart way to add to your home's hospitality potential, livability, and resale value. They don't require architects or a building permit to install, but they are easily customized to match the existing look and feel of your house.

If this describes your backyard area, you'll find that retractable awnings may be the missing link in your outdoor ecosystem. Retractable awnings tackle the sun, taming it, so you can fully enjoy your outdoor areas. With awnings in place, you'll be able to take advantage of your backyard's amenities at any hour of the day or night in most weather conditions.

**Does your house seem like a candidate?** If so, there's more to consider because retractable awnings have a second tier of benefits, as well.

*So just what is it that makes retractable awnings so impressive?  
Check out the TOP TEN list:*

- 1) **Excellent sun and heat protection that makes late afternoons and evenings on your patio or deck a pleasurable experience.** The majority of homeowners looking into retractable awnings are doing so for sun protection. Why sit in the sun or lower your head under an umbrella, when a retractable awning provides the full shade that you require?
- 2) **Sun protection.** Ultraviolet protection is only an instant away. Extend your awning effortlessly from anywhere using the touch of a button. Get UV protection in less than 60 seconds.
- 3) **Improving the exterior appearance of your home while enjoying the benefits of shade.** Retractable awnings come in a variety of styles and colors. Whether decorating for a beach or a country farmhouse, retractable awnings can complement any décor.
- 4) **Little to no maintenance is required.** Retractable awning manufacturers back their product with a variety of warranties.
- 5) **Customization is available.** There are numerous sensor options and fabric options available for making a retractable awning exactly what you would like it to be.
- 6) **Adding a room without construction costs.** Your retractable awning can add a great outside lounging area to your home. A retractable awning is a great deal less expensive than a permanent structure.
- 7) **Energy efficiency is at a premium with deregulation of power companies and rising gas and oil prices.** Retractable awnings can reduce heat in the interior of your home as much as 77 percent. Factor the effects of those savings on your utility bills.
- 8) **Longevity.** Your aluminum awning frame with a solution-dyed acrylic fabric **will not rust, nor will it fade,** within the manufacturer's warranty.
- 9) **Set the controls to your preferences, whether you want the switch to be indoors, outdoors, or available on a remote control.** The motors are also sealed within the roller tubes of the retractable awnings, so they require no maintenance for years of trouble-free service.
- 10) **European engineering and design** makes even the largest retractable awnings not only possible, but also desirable for commercial and residential use.

## *Things to Consider When Buying a Retractable Awning*

There are many reasons why retractable awnings are growing rapidly in popularity. Some people buy an awning because it is the environmentally responsible thing to do, while others buy an awning because it transforms the backyard into a relaxing place to gather. But regardless of the specific reason, installing a retractable awning on your home will not only save you money; it will add fantastic comfort and style to your home.

### **How do awning brands differ?**

Companies that manufacture retractable awnings try to provide the features and functionality that will make their product stand out against the competition; and interestingly, most of the awning models are great in their own way. The good news is that there truly is something for everyone. The bad news is that it is difficult to wade through these choices and to know the best awning. However, the best question to ask and have answered is what awning model, size, and fabric style is going to be best for you and your home. The secret is finding the right salesperson to help. You'll want someone who is knowledgeable and honest to really help you. **Start with a local dealer who has a long history of serving customers and the community.**

### **How does quality, price, and style affect your decision?**

Retractable awnings are typically classified into three ways: quality, price, and style. For example, some awnings are great entry-level awnings. They are low in cost, yet their quality ranges from low to good. They tend to lack options in size and color. Yet, while they are low-priced, they may provide a good fit for someone with a constrained budget. On the other side, other well-known companies provide many more choices. Be very careful not to shop on price alone; there are many more things to consider than just price. Awnings aren't different than other classes of service or products. "You get what you pay for." **Discuss your needs with your salesperson and make sure you get the very best material and product that fits within your budget and meets your needs.**

### **Where are awnings manufactured?**

Retractable awnings were primarily engineered in Europe; therefore, **you will typically find them to be of the best quality.** Many U.S. awning companies import components from Europe or Spain and locally assemble the awnings in the U.S. Because Europeans have enjoyed awnings for so long, they have figured them out the best. The European standards and product innovations are very high. All European companies use high standards, tough testing, and certifications based on durability.

### **What about the low-end units?**

Some companies are selling residential awnings at low prices. Most often these products come from China and typically end up costing consumers a lot more than they expected, both in money and frustration. Your awning must be well-built and strong, regardless of the awning size; but the strength is vitally important for the larger sizes needed to cover the larger decks commonly found in the U.S. Would you feel comfortable sitting under a several hundred pound awning with your friends and family if its strength was suspect? **You definitely want to ensure any awning you install is constructed of strong, well-built components and that it is installed properly.** Consider that they use lower standards, and thinner and weaker materials with minimal testing. They also have limited choices, which leaves price as the only benefit.

## **Which Retractable Awning Model Will Be the Best for You?**

It isn't always required to purchase the highest-end retractable awning. There are many times when a low-priced entry awning will do. If you must choose the entry-level awning, just be sure it is made of quality parts and installed properly. **One great way to ensure this is to get your awning from a dealer and manufacturer with a long-standing quality reputation.** This will ensure that you will have help resolving any issues in the future.

Think about how long you expect to own your awning. A lower priced retractable awning may be less money up front; but if it doesn't last as long or it doesn't perform well while you own it, then the higher-priced awning might cost you less money and provide more enjoyment over the term of ownership.

Higher-end retractable awnings can have 10-year or longer warranties, and lower-end awnings will have warranties of only 5 years or less.

Larger awnings require stronger framework and components. That is why heavier-duty awnings will come in a much bigger size offering. The super heavy-duty awnings can range from 35' in width to 13' in projection. Lower priced awnings will normally only go to 18' wide and project a maximum of 10'.

Awnings are usually made from 100 percent solution-dyed acrylic, where each strand of yarn is solution-dyed and then woven together to create an even pattern. Plastics are used on cheap awnings; this cheap material traps the heat under the awning. The colors, patterns, look, and feel of these plastics are also not as stylish as acrylic fabric colors and patterns.

As homeowners make a list of home improvements for the spring and summer, retractable awnings made with a sturdy lateral arm system, high-tech motorization, and performance fabrics are likely to be among the top choices.

## *Can a Conventional Awning Add that Extra Touch?*

Residential conventional awnings can add that "**extra touch**" to your home. By combining functional excellence and decorative appeal, residential conventional awnings allow an unlimited number of opportunities to accentuate your home. An endless array of colors, shapes, and styles allow you to have complete design flexibility.

**Window Awnings can reduce sun glare and dress up your home. They can also save you money by reducing demands on your air conditioning.** They are custom produced to fit almost any window style. These awnings have a pipe frame with fittings, and they can be removed from your windows in the winter and reinstalled in the spring. Permanent window awnings are also available. However, these require support pipes and laced-on covers that enable them to remain up all year. There are size restrictions for this style of awning.

**Get more use out of your patio by creating another room with a stationary awning.** The framework for this style of awning stays up all year. The fabric is removed for the winter season and is stored properly inside. This awning can be used in all but the most inclement weather, providing coverage for your deck from the spring season through the fall season. It can be removed from your patio or deck in the winter and reinstalled in the spring.

**Porch awnings can come in various designs.** One style is a vertical drop. This is like a shade that descends from top to bottom and can lower up to 6 feet, using a gear. This shade is housed in a metal framework. Another style is our drop roller curtain. This is also like a shade; but it rolls up from the bottom, using a pipe for weight and ropes and pulleys as the moving operation.

**Rounded or elongated dome awnings can add style to your front door or window and add protection from sun and rain.** The frame is usually made of aluminum with a cover that remains up all year long.

**A "walk-under" awning can add protection to your front door and walkway.** The frame is usually made of aluminum with a cover that remains up all year long.

## *Commercial Awnings Increase Eye Appeal Visibility*

**Commercial awnings** can create a stunning new look for your business and increase street visibility. Each commercial awning can be custom designed to fit your business, giving it the character and excitement you desire.

The addition of illumination can add excitement and visibility to your business and can provide security 24 hours a day. Add a logo or graphics to show off your name and give you constant visibility.

**Patio awnings** are a great way to draw attention to your business, while creating a cozy place for your guests. This style offers your patrons protection from all but the most inclement weather, while still allowing them to enjoy the outdoors, from the spring through the fall. Patio Awnings are an excellent way to expand or create additional seating outdoors for your establishment. While the framework of this awning stays up all year, the fabric is removed for the winter season and is stored properly inside. Graphics may be put on the body of the awning or just on the valance to identify your business.

**Slant style awnings** can create atmosphere and enhance your business identity. They allow for a variety of looks and graphics to best suit your location. These awnings are custom produced to fit almost any window style and can remain up all year for full season protection.

**Rounded or elongated dome awnings or quarter barrel** awnings can add style to your entrance or window area and draw attention to your business. This frame is usually made of aluminum with a cover that remains up all year. A “walk-under” awning can dress up your entrance and provide protection from the sun and rain. This frame is usually made of aluminum with a cover that remains up all year. Many styles are available to add just the right touch to your location.

**Large window awnings** are wonderful for store front or restaurant windows. These awnings can be adjusted to eliminate sun glare for your patrons. They are made of an aluminum frame with spring-loaded arms, which can be lowered 160 degrees to create a sun screen. They can be operated manually by a hand crank or by an electric motor with the touch of a button. Graphics can be placed on the valance to increase visibility, as well.

## *What You Should Know About Creative Awnings, Inc.*

At Creative Awnings, we recognize your demand for quality. That's why all of our awnings are locally manufactured by Perfecta Awnings, Inc. in Coopersburg, Pennsylvania, with the highest quality materials. Every awning is custom made to the inch and comes with our complete installation service by our in-house team of experts.

### **Overview**

We're proud to offer not only the area's best awnings, but the most satisfying customer experience available. As a family-owned and operated business, serving the Lehigh Valley and surrounding areas since 1986, we understand our customers; and we treat them right. Our knowledgeable staff is here to answer all of your questions. We'll even come to your home or place of business for a free demonstration and estimate. Daytime, evening, and even weekend appointments are available.

### **Complete Customer Satisfaction**

We recognize your demand for quality. We strongly believe in giving our customers the most for their money. We want you to know we are here for you before, during, and after your purchase. When you call us on the phone, we promise personalized customer service in a timely fashion. Should you need parts and/or labor services, we can take care of everything. At Creative Awnings, your complete satisfaction is our goal.

### **Expertise**

Our awning expertise and implementation of production are designed to get you results...Very Fast! When you entrust the purchase of your awnings to us, you do not need to worry about any of the details because we are there to guide you through the buying process. **From manufacturing through installation, we do it all...awnings are our ONLY business.**

### **Price**

We have awnings for any budget. Our pricing is extremely competitive and with 100 percent free in-home estimates, your risk is not calling us for a quote on a new awning.

### **Products**

We provide Perfecta Retractable Awnings (motorized or handcrank) which give you shade on demand for maximum enjoyment of your outdoor living space. Turn your deck or patio into an elegant place for relaxing and entertaining without the hot sun or inconvenience of rain showers. Since our awnings are custom-made, you can take the interior decorating outside to make your home even more beautiful. Imagine it all coming together with your choice from a variety of fabrics and patterns to complement your home and decor.

We also manufacture and install Window Awnings, Stationary Awnings, Porch Awnings, Slant Style Awnings, Domes, Entrance Canopies, Quarter Barrel Awnings, and Waterfall Awnings for your home or business. We custom manufacture your job with the colors and lettering you need and professionally install it for you. We can even offer flame-retardant materials, should your municipality require them.

Learn more about choosing the right style of awning for your home or business today at [www.creativeawningsinc.com](http://www.creativeawningsinc.com).

## **5 Simple Steps**

### **1) Contact us today**

Simply contact us to arrange a visit to your home for a friendly consultation.

### **2) Set-up your free in-home consultation**

We will listen to your needs, answer your questions; and we will provide a full, free no-obligation quotation.

### **3) Design your awning with our professional sales staff**

Just a few simple measurements, some design decisions made by you; and then it is our job to custom make your awning.

### **4) Trust our trained installation technicians**

A trained technician will install your awning in less than a day. After testing it thoroughly and making sure you're familiar with its operation, they will depart their work area, leaving your patio or deck ready to be enjoyed by family and friends.

### **5) Relax, Unwind, and Entertain while enjoying your new awning**

For added peace of mind, your Perfecta awning comes with a comprehensive warranty.

**Creative Awnings, Inc.**

**CALL US NOW!**

**610-282-3305**

**Visit our Showroom at:**

**425 Springfield St**

**Coopersburg, PA 18036**