

RV MAIN AWNING (PATIO) FABRIC INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

Our Video is also available here; <http://youtu.be/ZfpM-op0dkU>

These installation instructions pertain to both A&E and Carefree manual type awnings (in other words non electric hardware). In addition my remarks will be more specific to A&E than Carefree but the general principles will apply.

I always do the fabric installation with the awning removed and on the ground. Before proceeding be sure the awning lock mechanism is working. Pull the awning out 8-12" and the roller should stay in position. If the lock is suspect or not working the tube will just return to the fully closed position **BUT TAKE NOTE**

The tube will probably unwind once it is free from the RV if the lock is not working....if it will not hold you need to replace entire spring locking mechanism ...I'm just pointing this out so you are aware of what might be going on

1. Remove 2 lag screws from the top of each vertical awning arm.
This will free up the hardware for removal
While doing this remove the screw from the fabric/polycord
That should be in the awning rail at each end of awning.
(Your awning may or may not have them)

Next tug on the awning fabric to free it in the awning rail. Any difficulty in freeing the fabric in the awning rail will depend on the environment it has been in and how much "crud" that may have accumulated in the rail.
Once free return to the ground.

Now everything on top should be "free" and ready for removal.

2. Unhook the bottom of each vertical awning arm and pull out the Awning arm latch and allow the bottom portion of awning arm to Fall to the ground. Return latch to home position to lock the arm
At this height.
(When doing this you want arm long enough to hold the awning roller tube in its normal position and you don't want the roller tube lower than the awning rail) this would only make it more difficult to slide the awning
Down the awning rail.
3. Awning is now ready to be removed from the RV. Remove the awning in whichever direction is the easiest making sure there are no obstructions at the end of the rail.
While doing this concentrate on holding the top of the awning arms and roller tube away from the RV

(IF YOU'RE NOT CAREFULL YOU CAN SCRATCH THE SIDE OF THE RV WITH THE TOP OF THE AWNING RAILS)

Now as the awning is removed the “lead person” will be feeling the weight of the awning...the weight is not the big issue however...keeping the awning arm straight up and balancing the awning is the issue...

2 men can usually handle this but when you get an awning 18' and longer

You may want additional help to balance the awning once removed from the RV.

4. Lay awning down in a flat safe area (safe for your new fabric) with the
BACK SIDE UP. (The back side of the awning arms is the open side and will be facing up...you need access the nut at the top which is holding a metal insert attached to the Roller tube.
5. The roller tube locking mechanism is now at the left side of the awning.
Clamp a vice grip to one of the lips on the insert at the top of awning arm
And remove the bolt and nut.

THIS IS THE PART OF INSTALLATION WHERE YOU CAN GET HURT SO PAY ATTENTION.

If the lock mechanism is good the vice grip should not take off spinning once you separate the 2 pieces. Once separated get the awning arm out of the way and with one person on the vice grip have another person release the lock.

THERE ISN'T A TREMENTDOUS AMOUNT OF TENSION ON THIS SPRING SO IT'S NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF...PEOPLE GET HURT EITHER WHEN THE LOCK IS SUSPECT OR THE VICE GRIP GETS AWAY FROM THEM... IN THAT CASE DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT TRYING TO STOP IT BECAUSE YOU WILL GET HURT.

Slowly allow the spring to unwind (take note of direction it is turning-should be clockwise) and count each revolution because you will be putting that same tension back on the spring later.

6. At this point the roller tube will probably want to unwind further because there is a spring in the other end...allow it to unwind while AGAIN COUNTING THE NUMBER OF REVOLUTIONS AND THE DIRECTION IT IS UNWINDING because you have to put this tension back on the roller tube later on. Now the roller tube will be free of all spring tension

Before removing the locking end endcap mark it and the roller tube so that you will know how to position the endcap when you put it back on the roller tube.

7. Drill out the rivets on the locking end endcap and remove the spring mechanism
8. Unwrap awning fabric off the roller tube and remove old awning.
9. Lubricate both channels in roller tube with spray silicone and Install new awning on roller tube. Be patient as this takes time as you are pulling both poly cords down the awning at the same time. Take your time till new fabric is installed. Center fabric on roller tube.
10. Replace spring end cap in same position as it was previously.

11. Wrap awning onto roller tube. There's no easy way to do this. Either have a couple people holding the roller off the ground or prop up the roller tube off the ground and wrap awning on to the roller tube in the opposite direction that you unrolled it. To visualize this you want the awning to unroll from the top of roller tube...not the bottom. Wrap awning onto tube to where you have approx... 10-12 in free.
12. Reload spring at opposite end of locking end cap spring. Turn in opposite direction that it unwound. If your awning previously wound up slow when putting it away add one more turn to spring.
13. Reload locking spring. Attach vise grip as earlier and reload spring in
Opposite direction that it unwound. This should be counterclockwise when looking at roller tube from this end of roller. You want roller tube
To turn counterclockwise when it is retracting the awning. AGAIN if
Awning retraction was weak before add another turn or two to the spring.
(The amount to add depends on length of awning but if awning is 16-20' I would add at least two turns.
14. Re-secure mechanism to awning leg that was previously removed.
15. You're now ready to attach awning to RV. Open up the end of awning rail with a good size screwdriver and be sure there are no sharp edges that might damage new awning. (You can also tape the ends of awning rail for extra protection.) You'll need a 3rd person at the end of awning rail to guide polycord into the rail...person should guide awning fabric till entire awning is attached.
16. Re-secure awning legs to RV as they were before. Pull awning out and check awning operation to see that it rolls up straight. If it doesn't awning needs to be adjust at awning rail.