

CARE & MAINTENANCE FOR AWNINGS

An often over-looked but highly visible addition to most motor homes are awnings. Whether you have a window awning, slideroom awning, patio awning or all of the above, you should take special care to assure a long and useful life.

Winnebago Industries has primarily used two different brands of awnings, A&E (Dometic Corp.) and CareFree (CareFree of Colorado). The following care and maintenance was provided by the awning manufacturers.

A&E

Helpful Hints for Awning Care

- Whenever the awning is wet while rolled up, as soon as conditions allow, roll it out and let it dry before rolling it up again. This will help prevent mildew and rotting.
- Mildew does not form on the fabric itself, but on the accumulated dust, dirt and grime. Periodically clean vinyl or woven acrylic fabric with genuine A&E CANOPY CLEAN™. After cleaning, acrylic fabric should be treated with ACRYLIFE™.
- Always make sure the awning is extended high enough before opening the entry door.
- Apply A&E GO-EASY™ spray lubricant as needed to keep the awning's moving parts operating smoothly and to help prevent corrosion.

A&E 8500 and Sunchaser

- Abrasion, weather and long hours in the sun are vinyl's worst enemies. When the canopy is clean and dry, apply A&E VINYL FORMULA 201 (701106-34-000) spray with UV blocker to maintain color and gloss and extend the fabric's life.

A&E 9000

- In addition to its beauty and soft translucence, oven acrylic fabric offers the advantages of strength and breathability. It is water repellent, but because it is woven cloth, it is not waterproof. Use genuine ACRYLIFE™ by A&E (701106-35-000) once a year for maximum water integrity.
- Avoid touching the underside of the 9000 canopy when it is wet. To do so will break the surface

tension of the water and encourage seepage through the fabric.

- Because woven acrylic is of a much lighter weight than vinyl, shifting may occur if the awning and pull strap are not centrally aligned with the fabric roller tube while the awning is being rolled up. If necessary, roll the awning out and adjust the alignment.

CareFree

Awning Care and Maintenance

Care of Fabric

- Vinyl Canopy – Mildew will not form on the awning material itself, but may form on the dust allowed to accumulate on the canopy. A quality cleaner such as CareFree Awning Magic will keep your vinyl awning looking like new. Follow instructions on the container.
- Acrylic Canopy with Alumaguard – CareFree Awning Magic should be used to clean acrylic canopy. A stiff brush may be necessary to help when removing tough stains. Once cleansed, use clean water to completely rinse fabric clean.

CAUTION: Do not use caustic cleaners, mildew removers, or metal cleaners on fabric as they can destroy colors and will not be covered by warranty. The only repellent or protector that is recommended to apply to the fabric is called 303 High Tech Fabric Guard. This protectant can help enhance water proofness.

Periodic Maintenance

- Like any other part of the RV, an owner should periodically inspect the awning. The following items should be checked.
- All screws in brackets and rail are tight.
- Apply silicone lubricant to the threaded shafts of all black locking knobs to resist corrosion.
- Lubricate all sliding parts with spray silicone lubricant
- Check all arm pivot points for enlargement of holes or broken rivets.
- Check canopy for loose stitching and possible shrinkage or puckering.