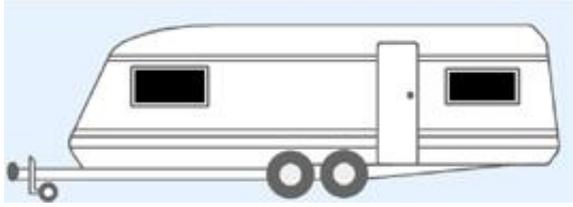


Northern Towing Services



*If there's a hitch
we can pull it*

Caravan awnings

An awning makes a great addition to any caravan in terms of extending your living room.

However, it's not just a case of arriving at site, attaching it and getting the BBQ up and running. You must treat it with respect if you expect to get the best service from it, as it won't take care of itself.

Pitching and striking

If you can, don't put up or take down your awning in the wind windy, but if you have no option, have enough helpers to ensure the awning doesn't break loose, or it could possibly cause damage or be damaged itself. Try to avoid doing it on your own. Position and tension all guy ropes correctly and securely peg down the wall as appropriate.

Zips

The first thing is that you must never force any zips to close or fasten. Make sure all zips are closed when you attach the awning, as this will provide a tension guide for you. If zips are stubborn, it means that something is potentially too tight, so perhaps relocate any ground pegs or slacken ropes, and if you are still having trouble, don't use force – seek out some zip oil or use soap or a candle along the zip teeth. Do not use proprietary oil as it may stain the awning.

Plastic windows

When packing your awning away, try to do so when it is dry and don't fold any rubber tension straps against a window, as these can stain the window. Any creases that form in the window material should disappear when you have put your awning up.

Groundsheet

There are mixed rules dependent on where you caravan. Some sites say 'no' to a groundsheet, others tell you to lift it daily. However, a little thought about the grass before you do will go a long way. Any groundsheet should preferably be made from breathable material if you use it for anything more than a day or two on grass. Make sure it is smaller than the awning floor area. However, for hard-standing, a plastic one will do the job, but do make sure it doesn't protrude under your awning or you'll find a nice pool of water in your living area when it rains!

In general

- Correctly tension your awning to minimise damage by adverse weather, or accident
- Always use guy ropes, even in still air - this helps hold the awning shape

- Fit any draught skirt and wheel cover - this prevents the awning from ballooning in wind blowing under the caravan.

Awning rail

While not really part of the awning, most can't be used unless you have one. Ensure it is free from kinks or dents, and keep the channel clean. To ensure the awning material itself will slide smoothly through the channel, remove any sharp metal burrs at the ends of the channel or where there are joints in the rail. Perhaps spray a little furniture polish into the slot, remembering to wipe through with a small piece of rolled up kitchen roll or similar to remove any excess so as not to stain your awning when you put it up.