



RetractableAwnings.com

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**RETRACTABLE AWNING/PATIO COVER VERSUS FIXED AWNING COMPARISON**

CATEGORY	RETRACTABLE PRODUCTS	FIXED PRODUCTS
<b>WEATHER</b>	In the event of inclement weather all our products can be retracted so as not to be damaged by high winds, heavy rain, hurricanes, hail or snow. Note: Some models are heavy rain, wind, hurricane, hail and snow proof when extended/opened. Motorization with optional wind sensors, rain sensors, sun sensors, timers & remote control available for ease of operation & peace of mind	Frames and fabrics are often damaged due to high wind, heavy rain, hurricanes, hail and snow. It is not practical to remove the fabric before each of the above types of weather
<b>SUN &amp; HEAT</b>	On a sunny, hot day you can extend the retractable awning or retractable patio cover to keep the heat and sun out of your home or building, while on cooler or cold days simply leave the retractable awning or retractable patio cover against the wall and take advantage of the heat provided naturally (and inexpensively) by the sun thus saving energy costs	Since all types of fixed products cannot be retracted you don't have the ability to leave the fixed product against the wall (retracted) to allow heat from the sun to warm the house or building
<b>LIGHT</b>	Allows property owner to have maximum light exposure inside the house or building on cloudy or rainy, overcast days	Since the fixed awning or fixed patio cover or other fixed structure cannot be retracted, the room will be very dark on a cloudy or rainy day
<b>FABRIC</b>	Solution dyed fabrics (Para, Sunbrella, Dickson & Sattler) have up to a 10 year warranty against fading, mildew & rotting, and are known to last in the 12-15 year range as can be rolled up when not in use. Ferrari Preconstraint fabrics used on the patio cover systems last even longer than 15 years	Most fixed/permanent/stationary awnings are installed with vinyl or canvas (cotton) not solution dyed acrylic fabric. Most vinyls and canvas (cotton) will mildew, rot and/or fade within 2-3 years after installation
<b>UV AND SUN EXPOSURE</b>	Solution dyed acrylic fabrics and Ferrari Preconstraint fabrics are known for their durability in the retractable awning, marine & patio furniture industries and are not exposed as much to the sun and ultraviolet (UV) rays as the fabric is retracted when not in use	The life of the cover is MUCH shorter since vinyl or canvas (which is cotton and not solution dyed acrylic) is ALWAYS exposed to the harsh elements including the sun and ultraviolet (UV) rays
<b>THREAD/HEAT SEALING</b>	On our folding lateral arm retractable awnings, we use 100% expanded clear Gore PTFE TENARA® UV resistant sewing thread which has a lifetime warranty against seam separation since it is U.V. (ultraviolet) resistant and is unaffected by salt water, cleaning chemicals (even bleach), cold or hot temperature extremes and acid rain. It is also non-flammable and will not rot or mildew. On our retractable patio cover systems, the fabric is heat sealed/melted together so that fabric separation will never occur	Most fixed awnings and fixed patio covers are sewn with polyester or cotton thread which will deteriorate and break within a couple of years due to UV exposure. You will then have to have the cover resewn
<b>FRAMES</b>	All our frames are electrostatically powder coated non-rusting <b>aluminum</b> which has a 25 year NON PRORATED warranty against defects including rusting.	Fixed awnings are made of <b>steel</b> which will rust and corrode from the elements in as little as 2-3 years.
<b>PITCH / ANGLE</b>	The pitch/angle can be adjusted on our folding lateral arm awnings for the best sun protection especially in the morning and late afternoon. You also have the ability to adjust the pitch/angle for a better view from inside the home or building	Pitch/angle cannot be adjusted thus limiting sun protection and the ability to see beyond the awning
<b>PARTIAL OPEN/CLOSED</b>	Folding lateral arm awnings and retractable patio cover systems can be partially opened/closed and stopped at any point when being extended or retracted	All fixed/permanent products cannot be retracted therefore can only be used fully extended
<b>SPACE REQUIREMENT</b>	Fabric retracts against the house or building. Very discrete with clean lines	Fixed means just that – fabric is always permanently extended and not aesthetically pleasing to the eye
<b>MOVEABILITY</b>	In the event of an address change it is much easier to move a folding lateral arm retractable awning than a fixed awning	In the event an address change it is much more difficult if not impossible to move a fixed awning than a folding lateral arm retractable awning

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