

A modern outdoor patio area featuring a bright yellow retractable awning mounted on a white building. Below the awning is a wooden deck with a dining table and chairs. In the background, there's a lounge area with a sofa and a coffee table. The scene is set during the day with a clear blue sky and some greenery in the distance.

SAMSON AWNINGS

YOUR PERFECT
AWNING

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YOUR PERFECT AWNING

Investing in a new awning is often part of a greater investment in enjoying more of your outdoor space for living, entertaining and simply relaxing.



We are all now very aware of the benefits of spending far more time outdoors, for your health and well being, and although we are constantly told now the climate is warming up across the whole world we still live in the UK and have to deal with our very changeable and often annoying weather systems. If we are not being totally baked on those hot sunny days that appear out of nowhere we are bat-tling with rainfall during months when it should be sunny!

Taking control and keeping your options open by using systems which protect you from our weather means investing in a high quality re-tractable awning system which is designed and built to deal with the weather. Thousands of awnings are sold each year and what is best for you and your expectations, whether it is a smaller size awning to cover a 2 person table, or a much larger system for entertaining many people will depend on you knowing what to look out for in an awning specification.



INVEST IN QUALITY

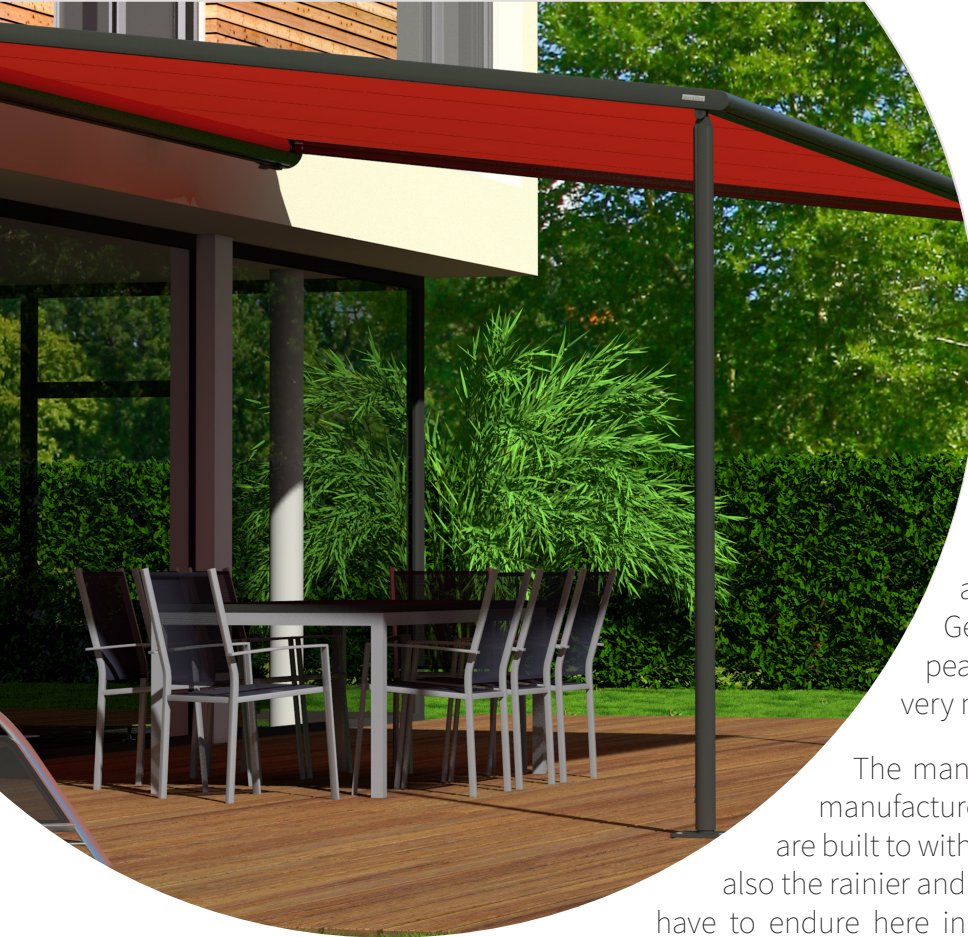
If you are wanting to invest in a retractable awning for your home or business then you need to be sure you are having the very best in design technology, materials and the latest motor drives and control technology.

An awning needs to be strong and durable for use in the UK climate, especially the larger they are.

They need to withstand strong sunshine and heat as well as cold, wet and freezing temperatures, and all the issues this brings to outdoor products around your home.

It is fast becoming common place now to control your electric blinds and awnings through well-established home automation apps on your smartphone, tablet and PC. The right apps also enable you to include lights, cameras and many other safety and security products.

A high quality awning will provide many years of use, where a cheap, off the shelf awning will not withstand much more than a light wind, and if used a lot in anything more than just calm sunny weather, will soon deteriorate, fail, and need replacing.



CHOICE OF AWNINGS

Most of high quality retractable awnings are manufactured in Germany or Holland, Northern European countries with weather patterns very much like our own in the UK.

The many years of development from these manufacturers have produced awnings which are built to withstand not only intense sunshine but also the rainier and windier conditions we unfortunately have to endure here in our country. They are suitable for domestic and commercial use.

If you want to invest in an awning which is not only bespoke in size, colour and specification then you surely also want something which can be used as often as possible to provide the perfect out-door living experience?

If at all possible try to get to see and try for yourself using one of the many high-quality awnings available in the UK. Go to a showroom and see for yourself the massive differences between a £300 awning and a £3,000 awning of the same size.

MODELS AND SIZES

Your choice of awning depends on you and your requirements.

There are over 40 different high quality retractable awning models of varying shapes and sizes, suitable for different buildings, applications or specific sizes.

Larger awnings, up to 14 metres wide and a maximum projection of 4 metres, with almost any size in-between provide cover for very large outdoor areas and will retract away when not in use with the fabric cover protected by the aluminium housing.

Awnings specifically for fixing underneath balconies, awnings for flat vertical walls, awnings for standing alone from a building when fixing is impossible, awnings providing drop down front shading, awnings with LED lighting built in, and so on.

If it is physically possible to provide shading using a self supporting retractable fabric awning then there is likely to be a model and size and fixing solution to suit on offer.





The aluminium cassettes, the forged aluminium knuckle joints and the various chain or kevlar belt systems used offer a smooth, quiet operation and many years of trouble free operation.

A good choice of finished colours for the framework and cassette are another sign of quality, with some awnings available with a textured and even metallic finish paintwork offering a tougher finish for a longer lasting and more resistant surface on the exterior.

A modern outdoor patio area featuring a large, bright orange awning that extends over a wooden dining table and chairs. The table is set with a vase of white and pink flowers, a small bowl, and a black metal grill. The patio is paved with light-colored tiles, and the background shows a modern building with large glass windows and a clear sky.

FEATURES OF QUALITY

What actually makes a good high quality awning?

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It is like a lot of mechanical products which in-volve many moving parts, different materials and large sections - the sum of the parts used in manu-facturing needs to be greater than the individual components by using only the highest quality parts in the first place, which all work harmoniously together. The brackets fixing to the wall, the arm sections, the arm joining sections, the internal springing or motor drives, the fabric cover, and so on. They should always have the highest possible quality fabric covers for maximum resistance to weather but also to offer the very brightest and stunning patterns and colours. Generally there is a choice of over 300 fabrics, modern, traditional, contemporary and unique when looking at the high-er quality awnings available in the UK. The motor drives used offer hard wired control, radio control and wi-fi control as options to integrate with most home automation systems.



PRICING

Surely when prices for almost anything are available on the internet with just a quick search, should this not be the case with a bespoke higher quality awning?

Although with a bespoke awning there are often many options which may need some explanation by an expert you should be able to get a rough guide price on any awning, regardless of size?

When looking for a specialist supplier always be cautious of any company that cannot give you at least an idea of the price as what they are usually trying to do is get a sales person into your home to work their charm, convince you their products are the best in the world and get your commitment on a purchase

before leaving.

The price is pitched to you after a massive long build up on the unique features and benefits.

This is all so old hat now but still goes on, you have been warned!

Generally a higher quality awning price will start from around £2,000 - £3,000 upwards.

SUN PROTECTION

Most retractable awnings are for some form of sun and heat protection. The hottest midday sun-shine in the summer or the lower sun in the Autumn months. The high quality fabrics used in certain awnings will provide excellent UV protection with graded protection depending on the choice of fabric, usually darker of course being more protection.

With our summers getting hotter each year sun and UV protection vital is for you, your family, and your friends, whilst relaxing or enjoying the health benefits of being outdoors at the same time. With adjustable pitch in the awning itself when installing and adjustable projection you can ensure the best protection throughout the daytime as the sun moves across the sky.

Many newer models of awning now have the option of a fully automatic drop down front valance to provide full protection from the lower sun, particularly if your garden faces West or South West.

These valances will drop down to a maximum of 2100mm from the front profile of the awning and all done at the simple push of a button from a handset, wall control or smartphone app.

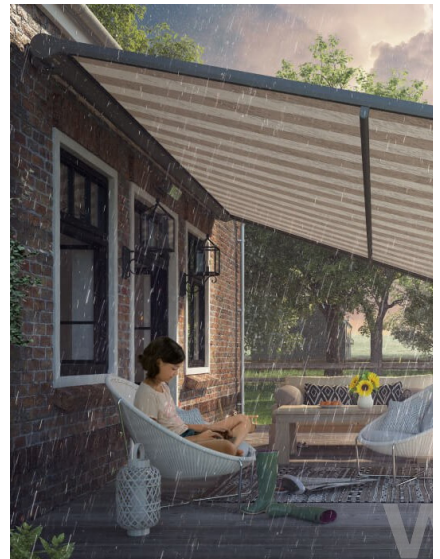
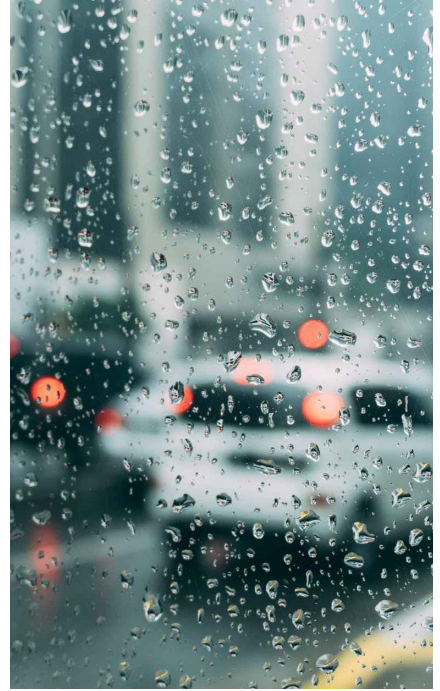
You can also have other retractable products such as the side mounted pull out blind to help provide protection from low sun and wind.



RAIN PROTECTION

Using a retractable fabric awning for rain protection does require a little more care and attention in the specification and positioning. The awning cover has to be at least 15 degrees in the pitch to allow rainwater to drain off fast enough and never cause a problem with water 'pooling' which ultimately would damage the cover and the awning mechanism. We offer various modes which are stronger in the overall construction, providing a more taut fabric cover to withstand higher wind speeds and the rainfall too. We are frequently asked if waterproof fabrics are available and yes, they are, however as the rain is not supposed to sit on the fabric then the standard polyester and acrylic fabrics are generally fine for domestic use and they are all water resistant as standard.

Most domestic awnings will be used infrequently in the rain and probably only in the summer and autumn months as well. For our commercial customers we know the sizes are generally a lot bigger and the use far more frequent and we have solutions for these applications.



FABRICS

THERE ARE SO MANY FABRICS TO CHOOSE FROM YOU WON'T KNOW WHERE TO START.

Over 500 different fabrics across 3 different ranges in either polyester or acrylic offering different light transmission and colours suitable for total blackout through to bright white to simply diffuse the sunlight. Plain, striped, designer, 3D designs and many others offer you the ultimate choice.

A fabric choice should depend on whether you like the sunlight or not and what kind of ambience you wish to create underneath the awning cover.

For South and West facing gardens you need something with mid to darker ends of the spectrum shades and for North facing a lighter shade, all based of course on controlling the sunlight and UV.

If you love the bright lights and sunshine then go for the lighter colours of course every time.

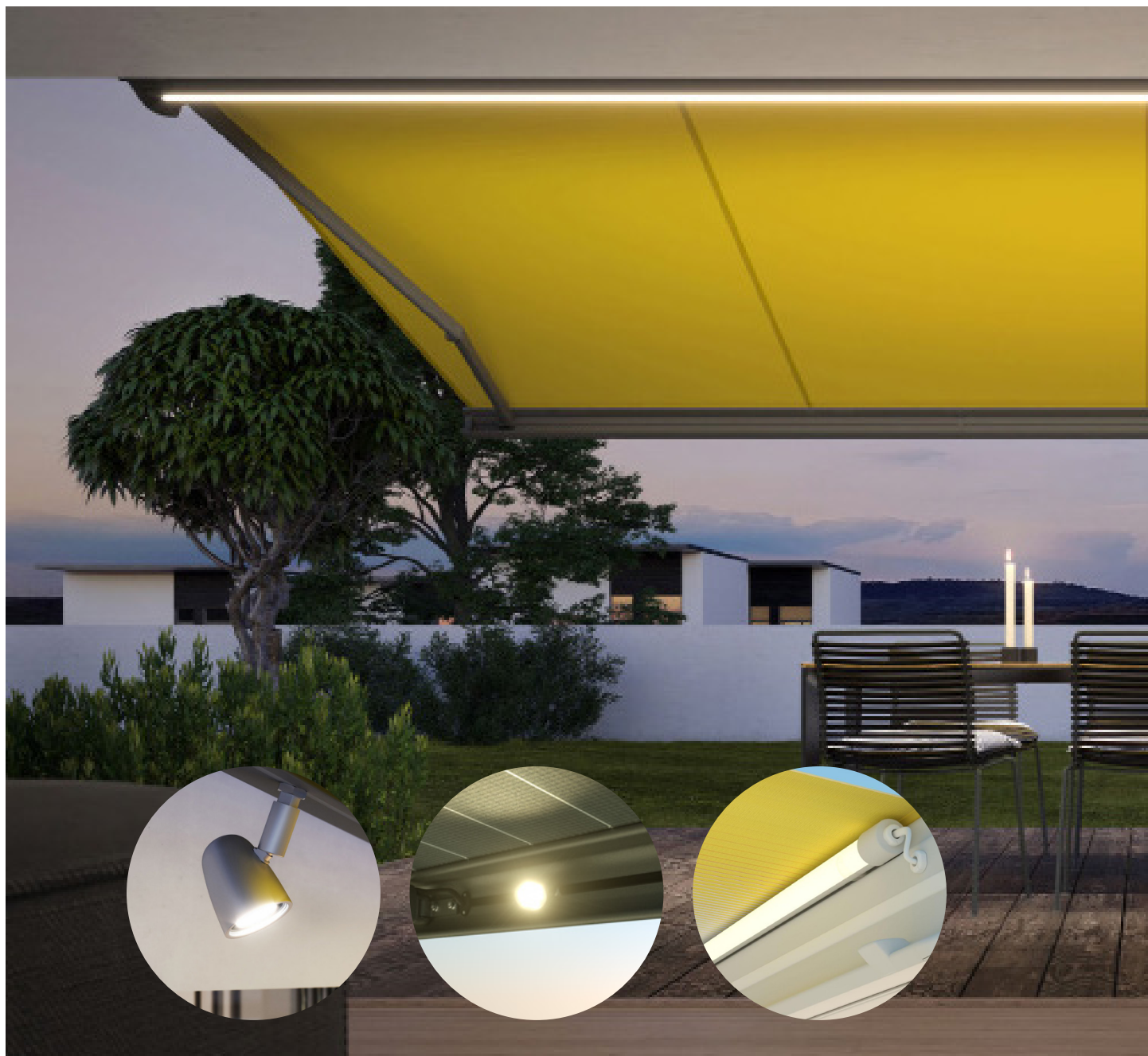
The fabrics used on awnings are manufactured to the very highest standards with Markilux for example having one of the largest weaving mills in Europe manufacturing genuine high quality fabrics with

modern technology and eco friendly processes. Rest assured any of the fabrics on our awnings will be of the highest standards and simply need some sensible and easy cleaning if they do get dirty from bird droppings, tree residue or other airborne contaminants.

All the fabrics are water resistant and you can choose 100% water proof fabrics as well, but with more limited colour choices for when a high usage in rain will be required.

The simple fact is you should have your awning installed to ensure rainwater is directed off the cover as fast as possible so waterproof materials should not be required in most cases.

Fire retardant materials are also available in limited choices for some commercial applications, where this is now a sensitive subject, being technically part of the outside cladding on a building or apartment block.





LED LIGHTING

Investing in a new awning is often part of a greater investment in enjoying more of your outdoor space for living, entertaining and simply relaxing.

The very latest awnings from manufacturers such as Markilux and Weinor offer incredible high quality LED light options in the form of spotlights or light strips all controlled from the same hand-set as the awning itself. The lights are either built into the underside of the awning or the front profile with further options in a separate light bar system to be positioned as required.

The LED lights offer far more than just mood lighting and can be used with the awning closed on many models to provide an outside lighting system in the darker winter months. The LED lights can be dimmed to provide the right level of lighting at all times. Very low running costs and extremely long lifespan make LED lights a great choice in any awning used for enjoying your outside space as much as possible.

FIXING BRACKETS

Most awnings are fixed to the vertical face of a building but it is also possible to fix from above in the case of a balcony and very rarely from underneath when fixing on top of a roof for example.

Standard brackets will be fixed in the predetermined positions for the model of awning chosen all depending on the type of construction - full cassette, open awning and so on..

When the brackets clash with a position which has no fixing ability, for example over a window then various brackets can be fabricated to extend the position of the fixing points and ensure the weight of the awning is taken on suitable structural materials.

A very common issue is trying to fix an awning to a single storey building where there is not sufficient height to have the awning with a pitch on the cover in case of rainfall. The awning position can be raised using 'spreader brackets' or 'bungalow brackets' as they are sometimes called which uses multiple fixings lower down into the wall of the building but offers a

fixing plate higher up to give the awning cassette and mechanism a suitable height for a sensible extension without compromising a pitch on the cover or upsetting the space beneath the awning.

Brackets are available to cover almost any obstacle or height issue on a building as well as offering stand alone framework systems where it simply is not possible to fix to the building where shading is required.

Brackets are manufactured from mild steel, stainless steel or aluminium as required with a colour to match the awning or to compliment the building colour scheme.

The brackets are probably the most important part of the overall awning installation, especially when more and more super lightweight building materials are being used which may tick the eco friendly, insulation for a property boxes, but don't have sufficient strength to even hang a picture on in a house



OPERATION

HOW DO YOU IMAGINE OPENING AND CLOSING YOUR AWNING?

How do you imagine opening and closing your awning? Up to certain sizes there is no issue in using a manual winding system but when the awnings get larger it is strongly recommended to use an electric drive system.

Some awnings are only electric and of course if you want the LED lighting then it would not make sense to have manual operation and then electric lights in the awning itself.

A manual awning will require management in wind and rain and common sense use. An electric powered awning should always have a motion sensor or wind speed sensor to retract the awning when the wind causes too much movement in the awning. It will automatically retract to prevent any damage occurring.

Any LED lights, electric drop down valances and associated items can all be controlled through one multi channel transmitter for ease of use.

Most customers will be quite happy with the hand held or wall mounted radio transmitter system to open and close the awning and other items, but more commonly now you can specify far more diverse control with systems like the Somfy Home Automation concept.

The basic set up would allow you to control your awning from a smartphone or tablet from anywhere in the world but would put you on the first steps towards additional products for your home all controlled from a central application.

It isn't expensive and offers convenience, security and total control for your home or business. Existing lights, electric blinds, electric garage doors, gates and other items can all be incorporated into the one place and you can then add indoor and outdoor cameras and begin a whole different level of control for your home.

Ask for further details on the Somfy systems or visit www.somfy.co.uk



SAFETY



Safety is paramount with awnings and the bigger the awning the more important the safety.

Most electric awnings should come with either a wind sensor or a built in motion sensor and this provides complete peace of mind, The awning will always retract when the wind speed causes too much movement in the awning cover and prevent damage to the fabric cover, the mechanics and potential structural damage with excessive forces on the building attachments.



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