

# EXPANDING YOUR OUTDOOR LIVING TIME

*while lowering your energy costs*



by **Les Kreider**  
President-Owner  
**Kreider's Canvas Service, Inc.**



**Kreider's Canvas Service** has been installing awnings since 1975 and has over 100 years of combined experience within our team of service personnel. Professionally manufactured and installed canvas awnings for your home or business is our specialty. We are committed to exceeding the expectations of all our clients and producing a long lasting quality product.

Our team at Kreider's Canvas Service works with all the available options we have knowledge of to provide you a balanced outdoor/indoor experience with minimal environmental upset. We may recommend a retractable awning for an area if wind and rain isn't an issue. We may recommend a powdercoated structure that has excellent wind resistance, yet will provide you with the necessary weather protection you need during the warmer half of the year, without limiting your solar gain and view the other half of the year. We have been known to recommend a roof also. Our goal is to provide you with good information so you can make a wise decision that you won't regret after the first year.

**...awnings and canopies are often the best solution for a patio or deck area for providing protection from the sun, wind, and rain, while still allowing for the benefit of free solar heat and light during the winter months.**

Based on my 55+ years in the canvas business, I have become a student of solar studies and solutions impacting home energy usage. Did you know, for example, that on one 87° summer day, a shaded area of the deck will be 87° while the



**W**ith the arrival of the hot summer sun and the seasonal thunderstorms that seem to crop up at the most inopportune time, many homeowners continue to be frustrated by how little they get to enjoy their outdoor living space whether it be an uncovered porch, deck or patio.

While a permanent roof could provide great shade in the summer and protection from the rain, a roof could very well be problematic during those cold winter days when we actually want as much sun entering our house as possible. "Solar

gain" and "free" sunlight have become more important in our lower-energy usage. Air conditioning cools our summers but costs more each year. Heating is being provided more by passive solar gain than by actual carbon based fossil fuels like oil, gas, wood, coal, and electricity. The environment today is a collection area for waste products from these fuels. Transportation is continually increasing miles per gallon numbers, with housing following closely behind. What improvements can we get with minimal impact on the environment, wallet and the future? All this is not new, but is becoming much more urgent.



solar heat gain on the deck flooring can reach 139°. I experienced that for a fact on a deck area where we were working. By shading the deck surface the temperature dropped over 50 degrees to a more comfortable 87°. The same thing happens on interior rooms protected by awnings. When windows are shaded with awnings, studies have found a 15 to 20 degree interior temperature decrease. Most of our previous customers have experienced that savings on hot summer days. If canopies or awnings are removed over winter, then the 15 to 20 degrees works in reverse heating the room with solar gain. The combined effect from summer to winter can yield up to a 30% savings in energy use (A/C & heat combined). With the increasing costs of electricity and heat, the savings from using an awning can be quickly recovered over several years.

When awnings came into large use in the 1800's to mid 1900's, there were no air conditioners. Now with the energy costs increasing awnings make more sense as you can increase your covered living area for the comfortable months, yet still get solar heat and light thru your windows and doors during the cooler, darker, winter months.

Material used for awnings and canopies has been improved from all cotton fabrics that faded in the sun, to durable, fade resistant fabrics constructed of acrylic with a 10-year prorated warranty. We have also improved the seam strength from using cotton threads and chain stitch machines, to currently all threads are synthetic with some seams even being heat welded together. What use to fade or needed to be re sewn in three to five years, now lasts 10 to 23 years with minimal maintenance.

In summary, awnings and canopies are often the best solution for a patio or deck area for providing protection from the sun, wind, and rain, while still allowing for the benefit of free solar heat and light during the winter months.

Should you have any questions or would like more information, we'd be happy to hear from you. Give us a call or visit us online.

R&A



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