

# Manual

for Foldaway sun awnings  
and external sun blinds



Our other products include interior blinds & security shutters

Please see [www.drathmore.co.uk/about/operating-manuals](http://www.drathmore.co.uk/about/operating-manuals)  
for up-to-date manuals

# Operation & Care

*To ensure lifelong, trouble-free use of your Drathmore quality awning*

Please follow the simple guidelines below to ensure you operate your Drathmore awning correctly.

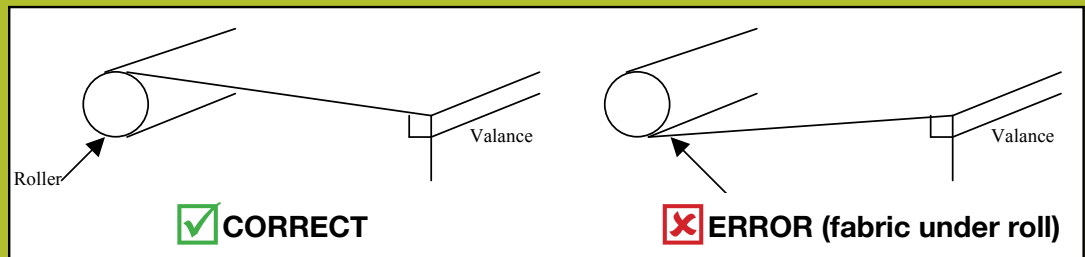
## Manual operation

To extend the awning turn the winding handle (located in the eye of the gearbox, on the right or left hand side) anticlockwise. When the awning is fully extended (i.e. the arms are locked open), turn the handle a quarter of a turn clockwise to tension the cover. To retract your awning, turn the handle clockwise until fully closed. Note that the first turn is always the hardest, this is due to the arms being in the locked position.

### PLEASE NOTE

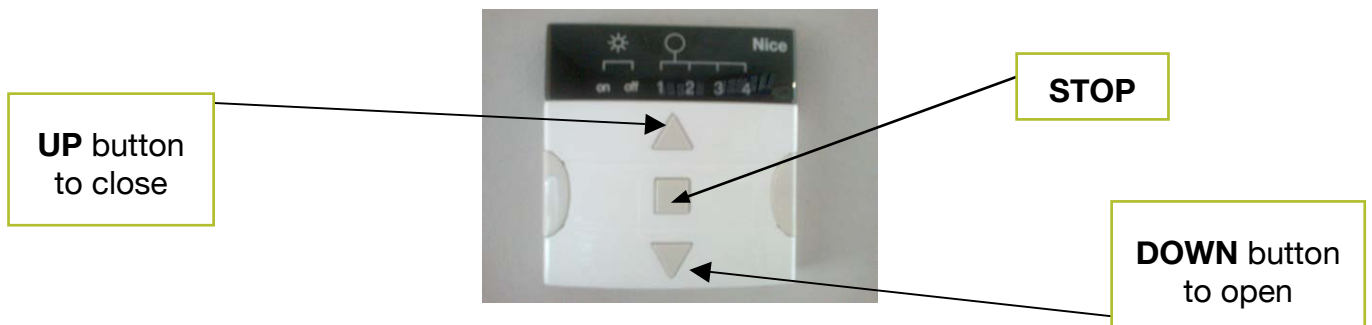


The fabric should roll over the top of the roller tube. NEVER allow the fabric to roll underneath. Be careful with the winding handle and the gear box eye as too much strain or over winding the awning (when closed) could cause damage



## Electric operation

With electric operation you do not have to worry about the fabric coming off the tube correctly as this is pre-set by Drathmore. All our awning motors are remote control systems.





Please note: the awning motor is inside the tube which the fabric rolls around this is 240v and should only be opened or worked on by trained engineers.



From Plug point/spur point wire to awning motor 240V supply



If you are carrying out work above the awning (using ladders etc) or directly below please switch power off, because if the open button is accident pressed or a sun sensor is fitted and the light threshold is reached and the awning opens you will not only cause injury to yourself and possibly others but also damage

## Features

- The square centre button can stop the awning at any position between open and close.
- A mid-point can be set with the remote control.
- With a remote with more than one channel (for multiple awnings), please see added information sheet.
- If a wind or rain sensor is fitted (to close the awning) please be advised that these are secondary safety devices and should not be relied upon 100%, i.e. the awning should not be left out if you are away from the location for an extended period of time.
- The sun sensor will open the awning and close at night time or if the wind sensor activates (wind sensor cannot be overridden for safety reasons)

**The above safety devices are not available on a manual awning, so care must be taken in adverse weather conditions.**

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## Removing the valance

*The valance can be removed in winter time, if you wish to do this please following the simple guide:*

1. Open awning
2. Remove end caps at each end of the front section of the awning
3. Carefully pull on the valance to slide out (2 people maybe easier in handling the valance if long in length)
4. Remove the doweling from the top pocket (may be in parts) and reinsert into the front section of the awning for safe keeping.
5. Roll valance up and store in a safe, dry place ready for summer time.
6. Fitting back is the reverse of above.

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## Caring for your awning

### The Framework:

This should be cleaned on a regular basis with a sponge or soft cloth, warm water and a mild detergent. DO NOT USE any special cleaners or stiff brushes as this will damage the framework and invalidate the guarantee.

### The Joints:

These should not need any lubricating; however, due to atmospheric conditions they may become dry. In this instance the joints (Front/rear rotation pins and arm elbow pin) should be sprayed with silicone to lubricate (this can be purchased from your local authorised distributor). DO NOT USE any corrosive oil or spray as will not only damage the working parts but also invalidate the guarantee.



## PLEASE NOTE

The guarantee is only valid if the system has been correctly used and not been misused. The guarantee covers the system itself (framework and components) acrylic fabric (cover only not valance) and controls.

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Drathmore awnings are only intended for solar protection and very light showers, and should therefore not be used in any adverse weather conditions i.e. snow, hail, frost, heavy rain, strong winds, thunder, lightning etc... Under no circumstances should anything be hung off the awning as to do so will invalidate the guarantee.

If the awning is caught by a very light shower and the weather starts to worsen, retract the awning and once the rain has stopped, extended the awning and allow cover to dry. This will stop the cover developing mildew in the rolled up position. Also, retracting the awning will stop pooling on the cover should the weather conditions worsen, – this can cause damage to the awning system/joints/brackets etc because it adds weight and creates more stress on the arm joints, fixing brackets and cover. Using the awning for anything other than solar protection is at users own risk.

## Automatic controls



## PLEASE NOTE

An awning must never be opened without supervision. Automatic controls may fail under extreme conditions (e.g. Power failure, faults, sudden storm). There is a risk of damage to the awning or it falling.

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Recommendation: When away, switch the automatic control to manual and retract the awning.



## OPERATION IN THE EVENT OF A POWER FAILURE

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A motorised awning cannot be retracted without power. In windy areas subject to frequent power failures the use of an emergency manual operation facility or an emergency power supply should be considered (not for all models available). The emergency manual operation controls must be accessible at a height of not more than 1.8 meters.

If there is a danger of frost, always ensure that you switch from automatic to manual operation so as to prevent the system working automatically.

## NEVER OPERATE THE SYSTEM IN FROSTY CONDITIONS OR WHERE THERE IS A DANGER OF FROST.

In an emergency if the awning's built-in drive fails (gear box becomes faulty or motor fails) and a gale or storm is impending, then the awning can be retracted using ropes or lashing belts as a makeshift solution. To do this, it is necessary to wrap a rope or lashing belt around the centre joints of the awning arms and then to tighten it until the awning is securely closed. It is also necessary to secure the folding arms to the awning frame work to prevent them from swinging out. Roll up the overhanging cloth and tie it to the awning. The aim of doing this is to provide as small an area as possible for the wind to connect with.



## Properties of blind cloths

Blind cloths are high performance products. However, even given the present state of the art and due to requirements of environmental protection, they can only be produced to a limited degree of perfection. Therefore, the producer can be confronted with complaints from non expert customers regarding certain effects not altering the value and usability of the product in anyway. In order to avoid irritation and in the context of consumer information, we should like to draw your attention to the following properties:

### 1. Wrinkles

These occur during fabrication and folding of blind cloths. This may especially with bright colours cause certain effects on the surface of the cloth in the wrinkled area (dislocation of pigments) which may look darker (like stripes of dust) when against the light. They do not alter the value and usability of the blind.

### 2. Chalk effect

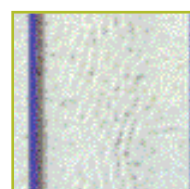
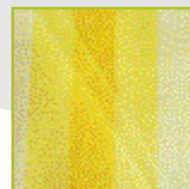
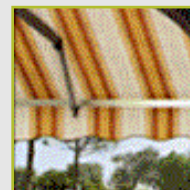
Brighter stripes occurring on finished products during fabrication which cannot always be totally avoided, even with great care. They are no reason for complaint

### 3. Rain proofness

Acrylic sunblind cloths are treated with a water repellent impregnation and resist a light, short shower. It has to be seen that the sun blind is sufficiently inclined (at least 15%) so that the rainwater can run off. For heavier or persistent shower the blinds must be rolled up in order to prevent damage. Blinds which have been rolled up in a wet state should be unrolled to dry as soon as possible.

### 4. Undulations

These may occur in trim and sewing zones of the web due to the layer structure of the fabric and to the different winding thicknesses on the roller tube. The resulting tensions in the fabric may cause this effect



## Properties of PVC cloths

PVC cloths are high performance products. However, even given the present state of the art and due to requirements of environmental protection, they can only be produced to a limited degree of perfection. Therefore, the producer can be confronted with complaints from non expert customers regarding certain effects not altering the value and usability of the product in anyway. In order to avoid irritation and in the context of consumer information, we should like to draw your attention to the following properties

### 1. Wrinkles

Occur during fabrication and folding of blind cloths. This may especially with bright colours cause certain effects on the surface of the PVC in the wrinkled area (dislocation of pigments) which may look darker (like stripes of dust) when against the light. They do not alter the value and usability of the blind.

### 2. Stamp effect

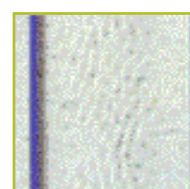
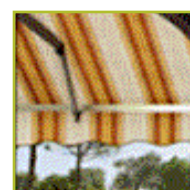
The manufacturer's mark can be stamped in certain places on the fabric, which cannot always be totally avoided. They are no reason for complaint

### 3. Rain proofness

PVC fabrics are waterproof by nature, which is a good property for cleaning. It has to be seen that the sun blind is sufficiently inclined (at least 15%) so that the rainwater can run off. For heavier or persistent shower the blinds must be rolled up in order to prevent damage. Blinds which have been rolled up in a wet state should be unrolled to dry as soon as possible. PVC DOES NOT make the awning an "All weather awning"

### 4. Undulations

May occur in trim and welded zones due to the heat applied when fusing the fabric together and to the different winding thicknesses on the roller tube. The resulting tensions in the fabric may cause this effect



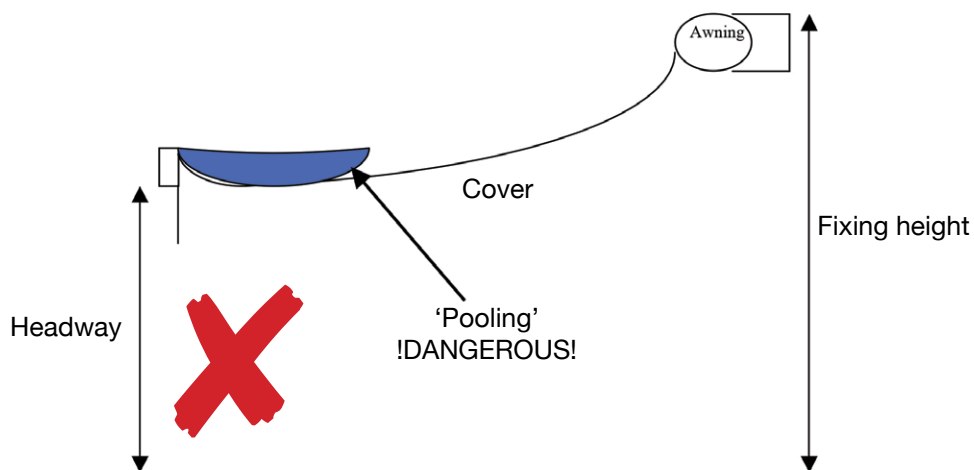
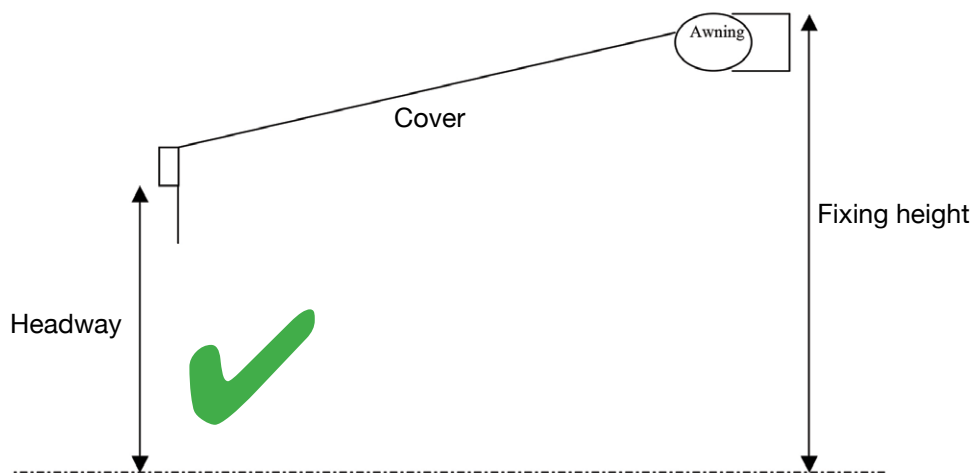
## Rain with sun awnings

Sun awnings are for solar protection but can resist light showers, however if it becomes heavy, or persistent all day rain, please retract the awning.

If the awning angle of pitch is less than 25% = 14 degrees, measured from the horizontal – it must not be opened in the rain. Even with a 25% (14 degree) or more pitch there is still a risk of puddles forming in the awning cover/fabric (large width awnings) which could damage the awning/brackets or cause it to fall.

Sometimes due to low fixings, height of the main awning unit and the maximum head way we can adjust the awning to (according to regulations) – the sun awning is more like to pool with water.

If this the case as above the awning should be retracted



Our Awning systems are made with the greatest of care. Nevertheless your foldaway awnings are and will remain sun protection systems. An awning which is wet when retracted should be extended again once the rain has stopped (as long as the wind is also not too strong) so that the cover may dry.

## When to use your awning



OK TO USE  
Sunshine



OK TO USE  
Overcast



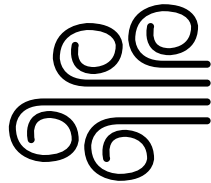
OK TO USE  
Light breeze



OK TO USE  
Light showers



DO NOT USE  
Fog or mist



DO NOT USE  
Strong winds or  
strong gusts



DO NOT USE  
Snow or frost



DO NOT USE  
Heavy, persistent or  
torrential rain/hail and  
thunderstorms



**DO NOT HANG  
ITEMS OFF THE  
ARMS OR FRONT  
SECTION**



## Sun awning/blind - Risk Assessment

Location:	
Date:	
Activity/Operation	<b>Foldaway arm sun awning</b>
Location/Area on site	
Hazards	<p><b>NEVER use awning in strong winds or gust, heavy rain or persistent rain, Hail, Snow, sleet, thunder storms, Ice, Fog. Foldaway awnings are for solar protection (Sun awnings), they can reset a light shower but if the weather worsen close the awning. Always keeps the awning in full view when operating the product using remote control. People, animals or objects may be in the way;</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Keep your distance from a moving awning. A moving awning can cause a dangerous situation or injury. Avoid the risk of being pinched or knocked;</li><li>• Should the fabric become wet anyway, allow it to dry as quickly as possible by extending the awning fully. This will prevent the fabric from deteriorating; only care this out if weather is permitting as not has mention above.</li><li>• When closing the awning, please ensure there is no foreign object attached to the fabric. This may damage the fabric and other parts of the awning and/or create a dangerous situation;</li><li>• Ensure that an electrically operated awning never opens or closes when not required, for example, when you are cleaning the awning. You must ensure that the tube motor is disconnected when cleaning the awning or performing maintenance work, by trained staff</li><li>• We recommend you install switch of point (fuse spur/plug) In this way, you will be able to switch off the electric operation of the awning this will prevent your awning from opening when work is being performed on the outside where the awning is fitted (for example, when the window cleaner is doing his or her job);</li></ul> <p><b>Manual operation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A manually operated awning can be opened and closed by using a control rod. Use normal physical force when operating the awning.</li><li>• Operate the awning without making any abrupt movements. Do not close the awning too tightly, since this will put an unnecessary load on the gears and may lead to damage and a shortening of its service life.</li></ul>
Population exposed	<b>Public, Staff</b>
Risk of accident	<b>Medium to high - If left out in the adverse weather conditions. See instructions sheets (terms and conditions both sheets)</b>