



RV

OWNER'S MANUAL

TRAVEL'R

12V MOTORIZED AWNING

This manual provides operational instructions for:

**TRAVEL'R FIXED FLAT PITCH AWNING;**  
**TRAVEL'R FIXED STEEP PITCH AWNING; AND,**  
**TRAVEL'R ADJUSTABLE PITCH AWNING.**



***Special Note:** This manual provides a basic description of the product and the standard operating controls provided by Carefree of Colorado. Some Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEM's) may alter or change the placement, style and/or functional configuration of the switches. If your controls do not match the style or description included, contact the coach manufacturer for an accurate description. OEM furnished components are not covered by the Carefree warranty.*

**INTRODUCTION**

From its beginning in the early 70's, Carefree of Colorado has emerged as the premier manufacturer of quality awnings and accessories for Recreational Vehicles (RVs). Our full line of products can provide the accessories that match your life style; no matter what type of RV you own.

Check with your dealer to discover the products that can make your life more Carefree.

The Travel'r series of awnings provides motorized awning comfort with Carefree's standards for looks, strength and dependability. It is the successful blend of style, quality and economy.

*Features include:*

- The unique "scissor" style arms do not require vertical ground supports.
- The adjustable pitch arms provide easy to use 6-position pitch adjustment.
- The awning rollbar and arms are made from light weight, no-rust aluminum;
- The 100% billow-proof, worm-gear drive motor eliminates the need for travel locks;
- Can be installed using a single switch control or with the Direct Response™ electronic system.
- Highest head clearance of any vertical arm awning.

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**⚠️ WARNINGS**

**⚠️ AWNINGS ARE DESIGNED TO PROVIDE SHADE AND PROTECTION FROM THE SUN. THE EFFECTS OF WIND AND RAIN ON AN AWNING ARE UNPREDICTABLE AND CAN CAUSE SEVERE DAMAGE TO THE AWNING AND/OR THE VEHICLE. IF WIND OR EXTENDED PERIODS OF RAIN ARE EXPECTED, ROLL UP THE AWNING AND SECURE.**

**⚠️ KEEP ALL SOURCES OF HEAT AND FLAME AWAY FROM THE AWNING CANOPY. FABRIC IS NOT FIREPROOF AND CAN BURN IF LEFT IN CONTACT WITH ANY FLAME OR HEAT SOURCE.**

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**⚠️ CAUTION** It is recommended that if leaving the RV unattended for a length of time, retract the awning to avoid unexpected climate conditions.

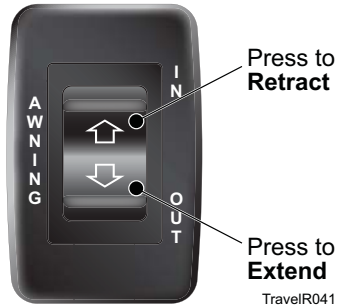
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## OPERATION

### STANDARD SWITCH OPERATION

#### To Operate the Awning:

- Press and hold the Patio Switch until the awning is in the desired position then release the switch.

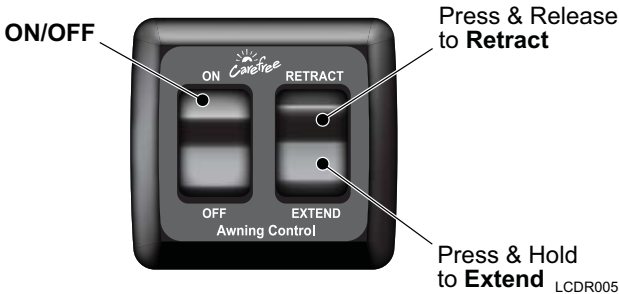


### DIRECT RESPONSE OPERATION

The optional Travel'r *Direct Response*<sup>™</sup> system detects awning motion caused by windy conditions. The sensor is located in the motor head.

The system operates by gauging the motion of the awning's front edge (roller tube). When the motion exceeds the factory preset threshold value the system automatically retracts the awning.

Gust detection is incorporated into the software. When the motion value suddenly and sharply increases above a safe maximum value, the awning closes immediately.



#### To Operate the Awning:

- Press the power switch to ON. When power is on, the Direct Response system is active and the manual controls are active. When power is OFF, all functions are disabled.

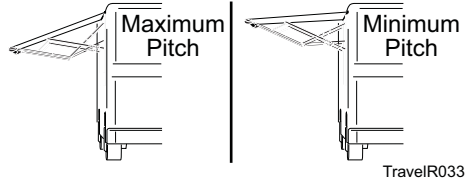
**⚠ CAUTION** It is strongly recommended that the power switch be set to OFF whenever the awning is not being operated and during transport. This acts as a safety to prevent the awning from being accidentally opened.

- To OPEN the awning: Press and hold the extend switch until the awning is open.
- To CLOSE the awning: Press and release the retract switch. The awning will close completely. To interrupt the awning retraction, press and release the retract switch again. The awning will stop.
- When the awning is in the retracted (rolled up) position, shut off the power switch to avoid accidentally extending the awning.

*Don't have Direct Response?  
Contact your Carefree dealer about having an upgrade kit installed.*

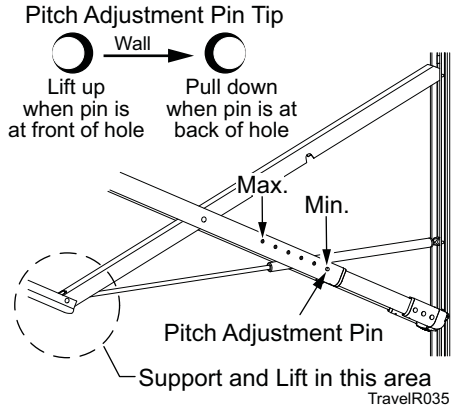
**ADJUSTING THE PITCH (ADJUSTABLE PITCH AWNING ONLY)**

The Travel'R arms have 6 pitch adjustment settings from minimum pitch to maximum pitch. The awning can be extended and retracted in any of these positions without having to reset the pitch between uses. See the Warning about rain release settings at the bottom of the page.



**CAUTION** Use care when adjusting the pitch as the awning may move abruptly.

1. Extend the awning completely. It is easier to adjust the pitch when the awning is fully extended.
2. Hold on to the awning arm to keep it steady while adjusting the pitch.
3. Press in the pitch adjustment pin located on the long scissor arm.  
*Tip: Applying LIGHT pressure on the arm will decrease the force required to press the pitch adjustment pins.*
4. Slide the scissor arm to the desired set hole - towards the coach for a lower pitch and away from the coach for a higher pitch.

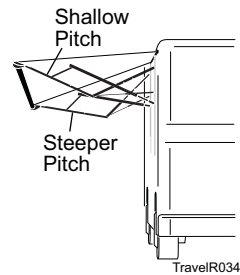


**RAIN RELEASE SETTING (ADJUSTABLE PITCH AWNING ONLY)**

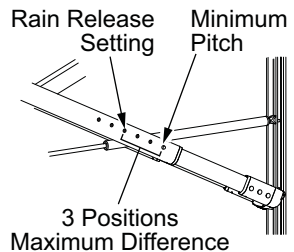
The effects of wind and rain on an awning are unpredictable and can cause severe damage to the awning and/or the vehicle. If WIND OR EXTENDED PERIODS OF RAIN ARE EXPECTED, ROLL UP THE AWNING AND SECURE.

If the awning is extended during rain, position one arm at a shallow pitch and the other arm at a steeper pitch. This provides a slope to allow the water to run off to one side.

**Note:** The awning can be retracted with the arms set in the rain release setting. The pitch does not have to be equalized before closing. See Warning below.



**WARNING** DO NOT SET THE ARMS AT MORE THAN THREE (3) POSITIONS DIFFERENT BETWEEN THE SHALLOW AND STEEP PITCH. DAMAGE TO THE ARMS AND CANOPY CAN OCCUR IF THE AWNING IS RETRACTED WHEN THE ARMS ARE SET AT MORE THAN 3 POSITIONS DIFFERENCE.



## THE AUTO-DUMP FEATURE

The flat pitch Travel'r and the adjustable pitch Travel'r (when the awning is set at the minimum flat pitch) will automatically dump accumulated water. The feature works by having one arm automatically folding partially closed to create a valley in the canopy. The valley allows the water to run off one side to prevent pooling. When the rain has stopped and the water has drained, the arm will extend back to normal.

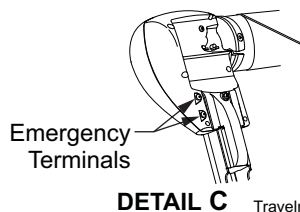
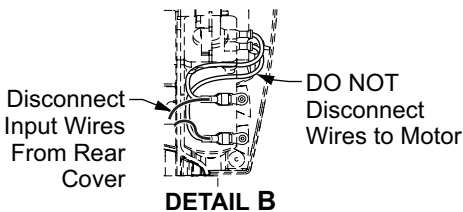
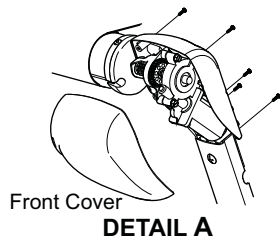
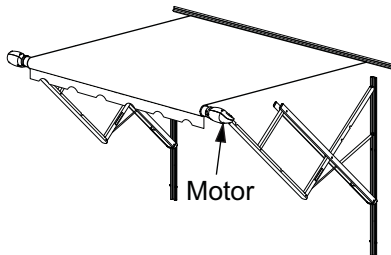
This feature is disabled when accessories such as rafters, tie-downs or Add-A-Rooms are installed and when the adjustable pitch awning is set in a rain release setting.

## EMERGENCY OPERATION

If the original power source fails or is unavailable, the Travel'r has emergency override terminals (12V). The terminals can be used with a 10V-18V power source, such as a cordless drill battery or car battery.

**⚠ WARNING** Do not connect the Travel'r terminals to a 110V power source! Doing so will permanently damage the awning!

**⚠ CAUTION** Do not use the emergency terminals without following the directions below. The electronic circuit creates a dynamic brake for the motor by shorting and grounding the motor leads. Steps 1 & 2 remove the brake to allow the emergency override to work.



Travel'r044

1. (*Detail A*) Remove the front cover from the motor head. There are six (6) small screws in the rear of the motor head.
2. (*Detail B*) Disconnect the input cable wires from the terminals. DO NOT disconnect the wires to the motor.
3. Leave the wires disconnected and reattach the front cover.
4. (*Detail C*) Attach the provided jumper leads to the terminals, located on the rear of the motorized head.
5. Connect the other ends of the jumper leads to a 12V source. If the awning does not begin to move, reverse the leads.
6. Maintain contact throughout the retraction process.

**⚠ CAUTION** Be careful when retracting the awning as the awning may move abruptly.

*COMMON OPERATIONAL QUESTIONS*

The following items are operational items that may come up as questions during normal operation.

1. The awning motor is equipped with a thermal protection circuit to protect the motor from overheating. Operating the awning repeatedly over a short time period may cause the circuit to sense a overheat condition and shut off the motor. If this occurs, wait approximately 15 minutes to allow the motor to cool then operate the awning in normal fashion.
2. The awning seems to extend and retract slowly. Normal operation time is 28-35 seconds to extend or retract. If the power supply is on the low side of the acceptable voltage range (10VDC-14VDC) the awning will move slower.
3. The awning may appear to move jerkily. When the fabric is rolled out, the Alumaguard or Uniguard may "bounce" creating a wave like motion in the canopy fabric. This will create the appearance of moving jerkily.
4. With Uniguard, the awning sticks or hangs up. When Uniguard is installed with a vinyl canopy, the vinyl will have a tendency to "cling" to the Uniguard when not used over an extended period. Open and close the awning in short bursts 2 or 3 times, the awning will then open normally.

If the awning does not operate, contact your Carefree Service Center. Visit our web site at [www.carefreeofcolorado.com](http://www.carefreeofcolorado.com) for a listing of dealers and service centers.

## AWNING CARE

Maintaining a Carefree Awning is easy. Just follow these basic steps:

- Always operate the awning according to the instructions.
- Periodically check that the fasteners are tight. Tighten if necessary.
- Keep the awning fabric and arms clean.

### *FABRIC CARE*

**⚠ CAUTION** DO not use oil based cleaners or any caustic, granulated, or abrasive type cleaners on your Carefree product.

1. One of the best ways to keep the fabric looking good and to delay the need for deep or vigorous cleanings is to hose fabrics off on a monthly basis with clear water. This practice helps prevent dirt from becoming deeply imbedded in the fabric. In most environments, a thorough cleaning will be needed every two to three years.
2. When it's time for a thorough cleaning, the fabric can be cleaned while still on the awning frame.
  - For Vinyl Fabric – Use a soft brush and warm water with soap.
  - For Acrylic Fabric – Use a stiff brush and warm water with soap.
3. When cleaning the fabric, it is important to observe the following:
  - Always use a natural soap, never detergent.
  - Water should be cold to lukewarm, never more than 100°F.
  - Air-dry only. Never apply heat to the fabric.
  - Always allow the fabric to dry thoroughly before rolling up the awning.

### MILDEW

Mildew is a fungus growth that looks like dirt. Vinyl coated polyester fabrics are mildew resistant because of a chemical biocide in the vinyl coating. Under ordinary conditions, mildew will not appear. However, in areas where high temperature and humidity are common, mildew can be a problem and require the material to be washed more frequently.

### POOLING

When water collects on the top of the fabric, this is known as "pooling". This can occur during inclement weather or if a running air conditioner discharges over the awning. The water is dumped when the awning is retracted. It is recommended that if water accumulates on the top; retract the awning in steps (8"-12") to dump the water. This will help prevent the fabric from stretching or distorting.

**The effects of wind and rain on an awning are unpredictable. Severe damage to the awning and the vehicle may result. IF WIND OR EXTENDED PERIODS OF RAIN ARE EXPECTED, ROLL UP THE AWNING AND SECURE FOR TRAVEL.**

### LEAKING

On vinyl canopies, side hems and poly cords are stitched in with a sewing machine. On occasion, this stitching may allow water to seep or leak through. This is normal and not a defect covered by warranty. Treat the seams with a quality seam sealer.

### *ARM CARE*

The best method of keeping the arms and braces operating smoothly is to clean them. Dirt and debris can cause the arms not to move easily. Periodically wash out the channels with running water (i.e. a hose). If the arms still do not move easily, lightly spray the joints and pivot points with a dry silicone lubricant after the arms have been cleaned and dried thoroughly.

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## CAREFREE MAJOR PRODUCT LIMITED WARRANTY

Carefree of Colorado (hereafter referred to as Carefree) warrants to the first retail Purchaser that the Carefree Product is free of defects in material and workmanship within the terms and conditions as set forth in the warranty statement available online at [www.carefreeofcolorado.com](http://www.carefreeofcolorado.com). Carefree's obligation under this warranty is limited to the repair or replacement, at Carefree's option, of any defective component with new or factory refurbished components.

OWNER MUST RETAIN THE ORIGINAL PROOF OF PURCHASE AND/OR HAVE THE PRODUCT WARRANTY REGISTRATION ON FILE AT CAREFREE FOR WARRANTY CLAIMS.

THIS WARRANTY IS NOT TRANSFERABLE.

**For**

- **Warranty Duration;**
- **Warranty Coverage and Exclusions;**
- **Warranty Terms of Coverage; and,**
- **Warranty Claim Procedures**

**Refer to publication**

**052580-111 "Carefree Major Product Limited Warranty"**

**available online at**

**[www.carefreeofcolorado.com](http://www.carefreeofcolorado.com)**

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**Register your Carefree products on-line at [www.carefreeofcolorado.com](http://www.carefreeofcolorado.com)**

*Publications available on-line @ [www.carefreeofcolorado.com](http://www.carefreeofcolorado.com):*

- 052540-221**    **Travel'r, Owner's Manual**
- 052540-002**    **Travel'r Fixed Pitch Installation Manual**
- 052540-021**    **Travel'r Adjustable Pitch Installation Manual**
- 052540-301**    **Travel'r Service Manual**

**IMPORTANT NOTICE:** It is strongly recommended that adjustments and repairs not described in this book be performed by trained technicians at your Authorized Carefree Dealer. Work performed by non-authorized persons or businesses may void warranty.

