



**OWNER'S
MANUAL
MIRAGE**

Product style codes: VW,
WP

**WITH DIRECT
RESPONSE**

RV

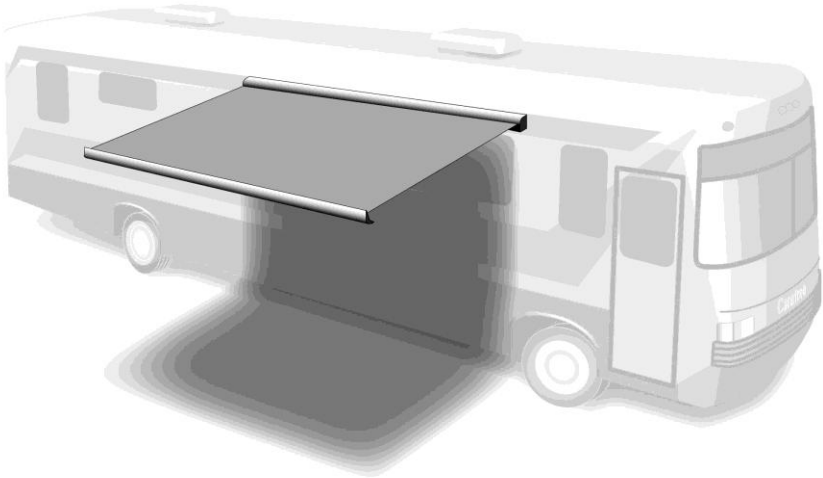


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INTRODUCTION

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 Mirage Patio Awning offers the coach owner an awning system that provides as much or as little shade as required. The canopies are housed in an aluminum case that easily blends in with the coach side wall. The canopy is made from woven acrylic fabric.

Each unit is equipped with Mirage lateral support arms that are the strongest available on the market. No vertical arms interfere with coach sidewalls or equipment that may be mounted on the sidewalls or sidewall graphics. These arms can also be adjusted to vary the canopy pitch up to 2 feet (it is strongly recommended that service and adjustments be performed by trained technicians).

The unique and innovative 110V electronic control system provides Carefree's *Direct Response* system with interior pushbutton controls for standard extend/retract functions. At the master control panel the auto-retract system can be engaged to automatically retract the awning in windy conditions. Sensitivity can be set to respond to a variety of wind speed conditions. An optional RF remote control is available.

WARNING

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.

WARNING

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.

CAUTION

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT IF LEAVING THE RV UNATTENDED FOR A LENGTH OF TIME, RETRACT THE AWNING TO AVOID UNEXPECTED CLIMATE CONDITIONS.

Operational Notes:

Awning Motor 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.

Ignition Lockout Sensors If the optional Carefree EL ignition lockout is installed the system disables the extend function when the vehicle ignition key is in the ON position.

Special order RTL ignition lockouts will fully retract the awning and disable the extend function when the vehicle ignition key is in the ON position.

Functions will return to normal operation when the ignition key is turned OFF.

Coach manufacturers may install their own lockout design. Refer to the coach literature about AC power for accessories.

OPERATION

The *Direct Response* system provides the user with a wide range of awning controls with simple pushbutton operation. The standard operation is straightforward with the buttons clearly labeled. Each is described below. These buttons operate the same with or without the auto-retract system turned on.

All function buttons are press ON - press OFF. The auto-functions continue until the awning is fully extended/retracted or when the stop button is pressed. It is not necessary to hold the function button while the function is active.

Power ON/OFF... The power switch must be on before any awning functions can be used. When the power is ON, the LED will illuminate.



EXCEPT WHEN THE AUTO-RETRACT SYSTEM IS ACTIVE, 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 ACCIDENTLY OPENED UNEXPECTEDLY.

Extend..... Press and release. The awning will extend out to the full extension and stop automatically. When the button is pushed, the LED will illuminate and stay on until another function is activated.

During normal operation, the awning will extend out completely then roll back slightly to provide tension to the fabric.

NOTE: If the optional ignition lockout is installed, the system disables the extend function while the vehicle ignition key is in the ON position. Pressing the extend button will cause the extend LED to flash for 2 seconds then shut off then the previous LED will come back on.

Stop..... Press and release. During extend and retract functions, the operator may stop the awning by pressing this button. When the button is pushed, the LED will illuminate and stay on until another function is activated.

Retract..... Press and release. The awning will retract and stop automatically when the awning is fully retracted. When the button is pushed, the LED will illuminate and stay on until another function is activated.

The function LEDs (extend, retract and stop) perform a dual function. When the button is pressed, the LED illuminates. The LED stays illuminated during the selected operation and after the awning has fully extended or retracted. This provides an indicator of the awning position. When the stop button is pressed, the LED will illuminate and stay on until a function is pressed. If on, it indicates that the awning is partially extended/retracted.

NOTE: When 110VAC power is removed from the system, the controller does not retain previous positioning information. When power is restored, positioning information is updated when the first function is initiated.

CAUTION

AT STARTUP (110VAC APPLIED) DO NOT PRESS THE RETRACT BUTTON TO UPDATE THE POSITIONING INFORMATION. THIS CAN CAUSE THE MOTOR TO RUN IN AN OVER CURRENT MODE. IF THIS OCCURS, THE MOTOR'S THERMAL PROTECTION DEVICE MAY SHUT OFF THE MOTOR AND THE OPERATOR MUST WAIT APPROXIMATELY 15 MINUTES, FOR THE MOTOR TO COOL OFF, BEFORE OPERATING THE AWNING. TO PROPERLY SET THE POSITIONING, PUSH THE EXTEND BUTTON, ALLOW TO RUN FOR 1 SECOND THEN PRESS THE STOP OR RETRACT BUTTON.

THE AUTO-RETRACT SYSTEM

The *Direct Response* system detects awning motion caused by windy conditions. The user is able to set the sensitivity and may have to experiment to find the best setting for the user's preferences.

The system operates by gauging the motion of the awning's leading edge. The motion sensor is located in the lead rail. When persistent motion exceeds the factory preset threshold value for 2 seconds or longer, the system will automatically retract the awning. The pushbutton controls provide for 5 factory preset sensitivity values (threshold values).

Gust detection is incorporated into the software. When the motion value is suddenly and sharply increased above a safe maximum value, then the 2 second persistence measure is overridden and the awning closes immediately.

To operate the auto-retract system: Turn the power ON; turn the Auto-Retract ON; set the sensitivity to the desired level.

NOTE: If the Auto-Retract LEDs flash when pressed on, this indicates that the motion sensor has been disengaged or otherwise disabled; the affected awning is not protected by the auto-retract function. The awning must be retracted using the command buttons. Immediately contact a Carefree service center for service.

CAUTION

THE CAREFREE DIRECT RESPONSE SYSTEM IS A PREMIERE ELECTRONIC AUTO-RETRACT SYSTEM THAT PROVIDES PROTECTION AGAINST ADVERSE ELEMENTS; BUT NO AUTO-RETRACT SYSTEM IS A GUARANTEE AGAINST SEVERE OR DESTRUCTIVE WEATHER; THE EFFECTS OF WIND AND RAIN ON AN AWNING ARE UNPREDICTABLE AND MAY CAUSE SEVERE DAMAGE TO THE AWNING AND/OR VEHICLE. IF WIND OR EXTENDED PERIODS OF RAIN ARE EXPECTED, RETRACT THE AWNING.

USING THE KEY FOB REMOTE CONTROL

A remote control Key FOB is furnished with the *Direct Response* system. In simple terms, the Key FOB is a wireless switch that functions in the same manner that the stationary touchpad does. The Key FOB provides the advantage of allowing you to operate the awning from any convenient location. To use: turn system power ON.

Extend.... Press and release. The awning extends out to the fully then stops automatically.

Retract.... Press and release. The awning will retract and stop automatically when the awning is fully closed.

Stop..... Press and release. During extend and retract functions, the awning may be stopped by pressing this button.

The Key FOB has a maximum operating range of 50 feet. Actual distance may vary depending on the specific installation and location of the receiver in the vehicle.

NOTE: Power ON/OFF and the Auto-Retract system can only be operated at the control panel.

KEY FOB BATTERY

The Key FOB remote w/ antenna uses a battery (Radio Shack p/n 23-279 or equivalent) that should provide a long period of service. To access: Remove the small screw from the back of the case and carefully snap off the back. Lift the old battery out and insert the new battery. Batteries are available through your local battery outlets.

Battery life is dependent on frequency of use, environmental conditions and condition of remote.

PROGRAMMING THE REMOTE RECEIVER

When adding or replacing a remote control, it is necessary to program the transmitter and receiver.

1. Power to the control box must be on.
2. Press and release the "Press to Learn Transmitter" button on the bottom of the receiver box. The receiver is in program mode when the red light comes on.
3. Press and release the STOP button on the remote. The red light will go out after the receiver learns the remote signal.

NOTE: Pressing the stop button will cause the blue up arrow button to default as the close (retract) function.

If a function button is pressed to train the receiver, it will be programmed as the retract button. Example: Pressing the top button will program the top button for retract and the bottom button as extend.

REMOTE OPERATIONAL NOTES:

- Transmitter and receiver operate on frequency 433 MHz.
- The receiver exits the program mode after ten seconds.
- If the light does not come on, the memory is full and must be cleared.
- To clear the memory: **PRESS AND HOLD** the transmitter learn button. While holding the button, the indicator light should be OFF for the full 5 seconds then come on.
- If the light does not go out during programming, the receiver already knows the transmitter's signal or the battery in the remote needs to be replaced.
- The system may be programmed for up to 5 remotes. Additional remotes may be ordered separately.

MANUAL OVERRIDE

If 110V power is not available to the coach, the Mirage awning can still be safely retracted using the manual override. The bypass may be accessed from inside the case on the motor housing or from the top of the case above the motor housing.

To use the top bypass access:
Remove the screw and well nut that is used to secure the end cap.

To use the inside bottom access:
The awning must be open a minimum of 8" to afford access to the override.

1. Chuck the supplied 7mm hex key into a 3/8" battery powered drill.
2. Insert the hex key into the manual override on the awning. For the top access, it will be necessary to locate the hex by feel; it is not visible with the key inserted in the hole.
3. Operate the drill in the forward (clockwise) direction to close the awning. Reverse the drill to open the awning.

NOTE: When using the bottom override, the awning can only be closed within 6-8". It will be necessary to use the top access to close the awning completely.

4. When done, return the screw and well nut to the top of the case if removed.

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 will help 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. 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 retracting 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 required the material to be washed more frequently. Thoroughly rinse the fabric with clean water and allow to air dry completely before rolling up the awning.

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, RETRACT THE AWNING AND SECURE.

ARM CARE

The best method of keeping the spring arms operating smoothly is to clean them. Periodically wash the arms with running water (i.e. a hose) to keep them clean. If the arms still do not move easily, lightly spray the joints with a dry silicone lubricant.

MOTOR MAINTENANCE

- Check all wiring and connections for wear. Repair when needed.
- Check that the sealant is providing a good seal and no water is accumulating on the wiring.

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. 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

Register your Carefree products on-line at www.carefreeofcolorado.com

Publications available on-line @ www.carefreeofcolorado.com:

052979-211 Mirage, Direct Response, Owner's Manual

052979-003 Mirage Installation Manual

052979-301 Mirage 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.