

# GAINING ADDITIONAL SPACE

without the expense of an addition  
while reducing your energy costs



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**W**e are all looking for ways to save. Gas prices took a brief drop, but are heading back up. Cost of building additions are also increasing as the overall economy is trying to recover in a new, but safe way.

We all know summer with increasing temperatures is on its way after the coldest February on record. Many people are looking for ways to expand their usable area in their home without the expense of an addition. Many folks have a deck that is hot and unusable during the summer months. I have experienced this firsthand on a deck where the air temperature was 87° but the deck's surface temperature was 139°—YES 139°! I checked it with a digital thermometer myself and checked it several times in disbelief. That is the reason you can't walk barefoot on an unprotected deck or patio. By shading this area with a canopy we were able to drop that temperature 52° to the more comfortable 87° air temperature. Now the deck just became useful.

Each year we solve this "too hot" deck scenario hundreds of times. Often connected to these areas are large windows which



provide great solar gain with FREE heat over winter but in the summer, the air conditioners just barely can stay ahead cooling the connecting room. I've had many people discover to their amazement that their AC units are running much less and their electric bills are lower after they install a removable cover stationary canopy.

National studies by American Society of Heating & Air Conditioning Engineers, University of Minnesota, & PAMA (Professional Awning Manufacture Associate) all provide solid evidence of energy savings of up to 77% when shading west and south facing windows with awnings. Additional studies have strong evidence of energy savings of 25% to 30% on annual energy costs by using removable canvas awnings. Permanent awnings of canvas or other materials like permanent roofs don't provide near the annual savings. These studies have found that in some cooler climates like in Maine & Canada the effect of a permanent roof can actually increase energy costs because the roof provides too much shade and no solar heat gain. The main point is that each area is different and there isn't a fixed rule that always works. There are many parts to the energy savings equation, with window location being the main factor.

Another benefit of a stationary canopy roof is the seasonal extra outside shaded area it provides. Summers are often the time when most people take vacations and spend more time outdoors. A stationary canopy provides a good area to unwind after work every day—even if it is rainy. Often vacations involve a lot of planning, coordination of schedules, gas, food, and extra expense. A stationary canopy can remove a lot of those challenges and be used multiple times each week to go on a "staycation". This area can become



Kreider's has been installing awnings for 40 years 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.

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a regular vacation area instead of a once a year event. You get outside and enjoy the fresh air while still staying close to your friends and family. It becomes a handy break area.

There are additional reasons for using awnings and canopies. They can protect doors, floors, carpet, and furniture from sun fading. Window films and high e-glass can provide some protection but other studies have found that the best protection is when it is done on the outside and not just interior shading which still allows the heat to circulate upward and along the ceiling of a room.

The fabrics we use on today's canopy covers are rarely of true canvas (cotton duck). Most of our materials are synthetic weaves that look like canvas but last up to 10-20 years, whereas cotton duck would last only 5-10 years. We also can make a color recommendation based on our experience. Our normal process is to do a site visit and suggest best solutions. We have over 100 years of combined experience on our staff able to provide a customer with canvas solutions to window and deck areas.

Roll up curtains are becoming a very popular item with clear window inserts for enclosing a porch area. We always try to provide you with the best options, done in the best way. Our attention to details often requires more time, thus we may be more costly, but, especially in canvas products, that attention to detail and design makes a longer lasting product which is less costly per year of service. We don't just sew an awning with Sunbrella and use galvanized pipe frame. We use the best fit and design for your unique situation. Wind whip and water run off are important factors to the life of



an exterior canvas product like a canopy.

We are celebrating our 40th year in the canvas business. We started in July 1975 with the goal of doing jobs correctly while using the best material and strongest thread for each job.

We service about a 90 minute radius around our shop in Leola.

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

**A Living Room For Your Backyard!**

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