

Home & Garden

New generation of awnings are attractive and energy efficient

LISA CARTWRIGHT
Features

Forget the image of awnings of the past, the new generation of awnings are stylish, come in 250 colors, a variety of sizes and are energy efficient - keeping you cool in the summer and warm in the winter.

Awnings - either fixed or retractable - can be put over any window, door or

patio, said Anita Goodwin, who owns Aristocrat Shade Products Ltd. with Herb Goodwin.

"You need (awnings) these days because of the ozone. (Awnings give) you a 94-96 per cent protection - depending on the color - from UVB (rays)," she said.

The darker the color, the more protection you have from the sun.

And because the sun is kept com-

pletely away from the windows, there is a 15 per cent decrease in temperature and 25 per cent savings on the air conditioner, she said.

"The air conditioner doesn't have to run (at) full speed all the time."

And when the weather turns cooler, the awning can be retracted. This allows the sun to shine in and warm up the room.

You can expect your awning to last

12-15 years, but Goodwin suggested anyone who has an older awning, replace it with a new one.

An awning for everyone

There is an awning to fit any budget, she said. The price changes depending on the colour and options you purchase.

You can purchase an awning that retracts by the push of a button or by a computer chip that can sense when the sun has gone away and when it comes back out.

"It's very very important (to view) an awning not only as an investment ... but an actual extension to window coverings.

You get what you pay for when purchasing an awning, said Goodwin. People should purchase an awning from a dealer who has a good reputation in service and installation.

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