

**DESTINATION** 4WD

# THE COMPLETE 4WD AWNING GUIDE

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For adventurers investing in their first 4WD awning or upgrading their current one



## What to look for in a new 4WD freestanding awning

Buying a new 4WD awning is like going on a new adventure...

You look at Instagram for inspiration.

Check out Google.

Research your options.

Compare your options.

Ask for recommendations.

Google some more.

Finally make a decision.

And lock it in!

There's a lot of time and energy that goes into buying a new awning, and the process can take anywhere for a few days to a few months!

### And in the end, you'll choose an awning that does 5 things:

1. It's strong and won't break the first time you use it.
2. Keeps you dry when it's raining.
3. Is big enough to give you enough shade when it's sunny.
4. Easy to set up and put away (you want a one-person job).
5. Easy to use in general (doesn't give you a headache with 20+ poles)

So in this 4WD awning guide, you will learn what makes a great 4WD awning and discover a checklist for your research and to base your decision on.

## What makes a great 4x4 awning?

There's nothing like hitting the open road on an adventure that you've been planning for months (or even years!).

You've got everything you need, the vehicle, canopy, sleeping arrangement and the essentials (fridge, solar, recovery gear, chairs/table) and a 4WD awning is often the final touch, whether it's a first-time buy or you're upgrading your existing one.

We are often asked what makes a good awning, and we believe it's comes down to 4 key points:

1. Suits your needs.
2. Fits your vehicle.
3. Easy to use.
4. Made from quality materials.

Ultimately, when it comes to choosing the [best 4WD awning](#) for you, it ticks these boxes and is what you want.



## YOUR NEEDS

When you're in the market for a new 4WD awning, think about your needs now and in the future. After all, high-quality 270 or 180 degree awning is an investment and you want it to last so you can use it well into the future.

### **You needs take into account:**

- How often you will use it or [plan to use](#) it in the future (for example, a big trip).
- How you intend to use it (for example, to sleep under, to enclose with walls and live under or just to have open when you need shade).
- Who will be using it with you (all the family or just you).
- How much room you need under it (a lot for said family!?).



## YOUR VEHICLE

Generally to attach a 4WD awning to your 4x4 you'll need a roof rack, roof rails, or custom brackets that attach to your canopy or rooftop tent depending on your setup.

The type of vehicle you have will weigh in on the type of awning you get, for example, if you live out of the back of your 4x4, such as a Troopy, or you have your kitchen in the back end, then we'd recommend a 270 awning for you.

However, if you have a van or car with a tailgate that lifts up (like a Toyota Fortuner or 300 series, or a Y62), you may decide a 180 degree awning is the best 4WD awning for you because you can utilise the tailgate as the rear shelter, plus have more shelter under the awning around to the side of the vehicle.

## EASY TO USE

Probably the most important point when you're looking to invest in a new awning ... is it easy to use? You want to get to your destination, set up quickly and then relax, so you want your awning to be quick, easy and painless!

Look at how easy the awning is to put out and pack away. How long does it take? Watch [videos](#) and get in touch with the manufacturer if you have specific questions.



## YOUR WANTS

This is your wishlist! Just keep this list open to change (remember your needs will trump your wants in some circumstances). There may be some compromises along the way as you start researching, but generally make a list of what you really want.

Perhaps the [best 4WD awning](#) for you is completely different to others on the market, it's Australian made, it has massive coverage to keep the whole family protected, it covers the rear of your car so you can access the fridge (or should we say beers!), or it doesn't pool when it rains.

Maybe, it's about great customer service and after-sales care and the fact that you can speak with someone on the phone if you need to, or you may decide that it's important to support a small business or buy local from your town or city.

Whatever it is for you, it's important to be 100% happy with your decision so you get pure enjoyment from your 270 awning or 180 degree freestanding awning every time you open it up and use it.

## A word on budget and awning prices

A side note on your budget: We haven't put this in as a deciding factor, for some it will be, while others will just want the best 4WD awning that suits their needs regardless of the price tag. Like with all investments, your budget can change as you start researching.

A luxury item always has a higher price point than a base product. Likewise, an [Australian-made product](#) will generally always be more expensive than an overseas product. However, an Aussie-made product will likely last longer.

As you start researching you may discover that everything you want in a 4WD awning doesn't match the budget you had in mind. Or you may simply find something you really love and want, so your budget may change.

If this is you, and you're at a budget crossroads, our advice would be to come back to your needs. If you are planning to use your awning for a big trip and want it for years to come, if you can manage it, always go for the highest quality in the first instance.

You may pay more now, but it will be worth it (and pay for itself over and over again) when you're out in nature and your awning is doing its job.



## How to set your budget

Our customers think of our awnings as an investment in their protection from the elements. After all, there truly is nothing more frustrating when you're out bush and something breaks - and you don't want that to be your awning.

First of all, set your budget. Then start looking at what you get for that price. Consider if it is made overseas or if it's Australian (Australian products are known the world over for being heavy duty, especially when it comes to the 4WD industry). When you are comparing costs and features, also have a look at one that is out of your price range so you can truly see the difference.

We'd also recommend touching the product. Feel the canvas, move the arms, see how it is made. You'll quickly discover the quality of the product.

Some 4WD explorers know exactly what they want and save towards it, or put their tax return to good use! While others want to see a range of awnings before making the commitment.



# 4WD AWNING CHECKLIST

Use this checklist to make sure you get everything you want in your next 4WD awning

| Attribute              | YES | NO | Notes   |
|------------------------|-----|----|---|
| Freestanding           |     |    |   |
| Pole supported         |     |    |   |
| Low weight             |     |    |   |
| Adequate coverage      |     |    |   |
| Easy to use            |     |    |   |
| Budget                 |     |    | How much is your budget?  |
| Within budget          |     |    |   |
| High-quality materials |     |    | Grade of canvas and alloy                                       |
| High wind resistance   |     |    | If freestanding, at what wind speed do you need to tie it down? |
| Points of difference   |     |    | What are the standout features?                                 |
| Australian made        |     |    |   |
| Warranty available     |     |    |   |
| Wait time on goods     |     |    | Is it available now?  |
| Accessories            |     |    | Are there walls to fit?   |
| Easy installation      |     |    | Can you do it yourself or do you need a fitter?                 |
| Great customer service |     |    | Can you talk with someone on the phone or by email?             |





## The facts about Destination4WD freestanding awnings

A freestanding 4x4 awning has to be one of the best and most useful investments an explorer, adventurer, overlander or 4WD enthusiast can make.

When Rafa, from Destination4WD, sat down to design what he thought would be the best 4WD awning, he wanted a design that covered everything. In fact, we are often told by our customers, "you've really thought of everything!".

### Our Destination4WD awnings had to:

- Be freestanding and have no need for poles (it can be tied down with ropes).
- Have tight canvas so there was no pooling or sagging when it rained.
- Be big but strong so it wasn't flimsy in the wind (and it wouldn't break the first time he used it).
- Be easy to use and set up (Rafa: "I'm a simple guy and I like simple things!")
- Be short on the car with no (or very minimal) overhang, and
- Last the distance in the tough Australian climate.

And we're proud to say that we've achieved those specifications and more - and our customers tell us. Our awnings have been in hail, torrential downpours, snow, extreme heat and gale-force winds (we had ours out in 70km/h gusts in South Australia and our customers [Rob and Georgia](#) told us they had their D270 awning out in 100km winds in the Snowy Mountains).

*NOTE: We don't recommend having your awning out in severe weather, but you may get caught in an extreme weather event and have no other option. Remember to tie it down before you go to bed or if you're leaving camp to go for a walk or fish. The weather has a tendency to change and we want you to stay safe and protect your investment.*

## What makes our 270 awning and 180 degree freestanding awning different?

### 1. The extendable arms!

The extendable (or telescopic) arms mean we can keep the awning base short on the car. It's only 2.2m long when packed away. But they also mean that our awnings can open up to massive 12.4sqm of square coverage because the arms click into place and extend your shade!

### 2. It's completely square

Our [270 awning](#) is completely square at the front and at the back and that's also thanks to the extendable arms. It means you won't get wet when you're living out of the rear of your 4x4 and you simply get better coverage than other awnings that cut in on an angle.

### 3. It's all-Australian

We use all Aussie canvas, steel and alloy and all of our 4WD awnings are made in Cairns by locals. We believe in supporting the Australian community and manufacturing industry here. It means more jobs for Australians, happy families and more money in the country. That's important for us and for Rafa to give back to the country and Australians who opened their arms to welcome him.

### The best 4WD awning is the one that meets your needs

Your needs, vehicle and what you actually want are the elements that make up the best [4WD awning](#) for you. You can check out our [270 awning](#) and [180 degree awnings](#) as part of your research, and if you ever have any questions, [get in touch](#). We are always ready to help you.



# DESTINATION **4WD** Customers



"Totally in love with our D 270 degree free standing awning, it's small size (packed up) fits the lines of our Prado perfectly, it's super easy to set up, gives enormous amount of shade, (this thing is huge)! - **Greg, Cairns**

This awning is absolutely the best - and I looked at heaps on the market! This awning is well designed, well manufactured and will give years of trouble-free use. You can even add walls if you wish. - **Brett Parfitt, D270 awning user**




The D180 is bloody brilliant! We are currently on our half lap of Aus and decided to ditch the awning that came with our camper trailer and just use the 180 degree awning off the vehicle. Best decision we made, much quicker set up and half the weight. - **Miranda, D180 user**




Minimum fuss, huge shade/shelter, and it is tough. Just take one look at it on any vehicle and you can see what that is a quality product, tough as nails, never going to budge. And we love the width and the angles! **Janis & Fran, SA**





 **championthewonder** The perfect setup doesn't exist. Everything is a compromise. Over the years we have changed our travelling setup numerous times. We love changing things up and building up new travel rigs to experience what this great country has to offer. Introducing Bronson - a 2005 #105series Landcruiser. We have opted to go a rooftop tent from the legends at @outback.tourer and a awesome freestanding D270 awning from @destination4wd. This was our first lil trip trying out the new setup and we are stoked with how things are progressing with this new rig.



 **lukeslifepix** The massive coverage and quick deployment of the @destination4wd freestanding 270 degree awning is outstanding, raining last night and could still access my fridge without getting wet. Absolutely awesome.



"Best investment I've ever made on the van" - **Chris, FNQ Windscreens**



 **ourdaystouring** mentioned you in a comment:  @destination4wd awning, absolutely love it 🍷 18h 