

Key questions you can't afford not to ask your canopy manufacturer

If you're planning to invest in an outdoor canopy, then you want to make sure, as with any investment, that you get it 100% right.

Taking the time to do your research and look around for the right canopy manufacturer to partner with can help you make the right decision. So too can asking your canopy manufacturer these key questions:



1: 'How do you manufacture your outdoor canopies?'

You don't need to know about the precise ins and outs of the manufacturer's processes, but it's extremely useful for you to have some knowledge of their processes and the standards they work to.

Do their canopies conform to BS6399-3 and European Standard EN1991-1-3:2003? And do they use the highest quality materials that are designed to last? It's this attention to detail that will help make sure your canopy meets industry regulations and is built to last.



2: 'What about installation?'

How your canopy's installed can majorly impact the end result. Like all installations, outdoor canopies need to be correctly erected, anything less could result in them looking unprofessional and you winding up with costly and time-consuming maintenance issues, as well as all sorts of other problems.

Ideally, your canopy manufacturer should have a team of trained installers, who are dedicated to carrying out installation work. This team should also include surveyors who'll carry out site-specific calculations (which we'll explain in the next point).

✓ 3: 'Do you carry out site-specific calculations?'

In a nutshell, site-specific calculations are technical measurements that are carried out on-site, before the design of a canopy can be finalised.

These calculations guarantee outdoor canopies are fit for purpose and take key factors, including wind speed, annual snowfall, nearby trees and tree roots, drains and below ground drainage and the foundations into consideration.

They're an integral part of achieving exceptional outdoor canopy manufacturing and installation.

✓ 4: 'How experienced are you?...'

Yes, this may seem like somewhat of an obvious question, but it's an extremely important one. Ideally, you want your outdoor canopy manufacturer to have plenty of experience, in fact, the more years, the better.

And if their design, manufacture and installation is industry-leading, then ever better. Are they pushing the boundaries? Are they leaders within the field?

✓ 5: '...and does that experience apply to my industry?'

It's important that your canopy manufacturer has experience of working within your world. So, if you're a school, then finding a specialist with a history of working with educational establishments would be particularly advantageous.

This will instantly give you peace of mind that your manufacturer understands you and your requirements. They should also be able to leverage their previous experience to make sure you avoid any common industry pitfalls and benefit from their best practice insight.

Here we've listed five key questions (there are obviously many more out there) that will help set you on the right track to finding the best possible canopy manufacturer. To find out more or to discuss your canopy requirements with us, contact us on 01254 777 002 or email karen@canopiesuk.co.uk

