



# Outdoor canopies

A special report for getting the  
best results from your investment



canopies uk  
[www.canopiesuk.co.uk](http://www.canopiesuk.co.uk)

# Introduction

Outdoor canopies can be designed and manufactured for a range of environments and sectors. Whether you're a school looking to create additional dining space or a restaurant wanting to maximise your appeal with al fresco dining, an outdoor canopy can be the ideal solution.



Ensuring that your canopy delivers in both the design and functionality stakes and provides you with the best possible return on your investment can be challenging, especially if you've not invested in one before.

While 'off the shelf' solutions and fast installation might mean you get your canopy quickly, perhaps even sooner than anticipated, it's an approach that inevitably leads to problems further down the line, such as maintenance and performance issues and additional remedial costs.

However, as widespread an issue as it might be, it's a problem that can be easily avoided. Taking the time to do your research beforehand, in the right areas, will help ensure that:

1

Your canopy meets your requirements

2

You're provided with the best possible results

# Getting the best results from your outdoor canopy: 3 steps

## Step 1 – Use your brand

Aside from providing protection from the elements and maximising the use of your outdoor space, did you know that canopies can actually boost your overall image?

Contrary to popular belief, outdoor canopies needn't be generic structures, they can actually be designed to help reflect and enhance your brand identity:

### By choosing to 'brand' your outdoor canopy you can:

Ensure it's consistent with your existing buildings

Enhance your overall setting

Promote your brand on an even wider scale

Add instant eye-catching appeal to your premises

## Step 2 - Challenge your original ideas

Do you wish you could make use of your outdoor space all year round? Enhance the appeal of your existing area? Or perhaps you want to create a different type of environment?

While redesigning your outdoor space is an option, it may not necessarily fit within your budget or be ready within your timescales. It's at this point, where many people give up on their original idea because they don't think it's possible.

But that's where outdoor canopies come in. They're a less drastic, far more cost efficient and just as effective way of creating the right outdoor setting plus, in most circumstances, they don't require planning permission.

With an outdoor canopy you can instantly transform neglected or underused areas into appealing outdoor spaces suitable for any purpose. As well as providing shelter from the rain, strong winds and snow, our canopies also feature translucent UV filters, as standard, that block out 90% of the sun's harmful rays.

# Getting the best results from your outdoor canopy: 3 steps

## Step 3 – Explore the options

Branding aside, finding a way to enhance the appearance of your premises/building that's highly effective and cost effective, isn't easy.

First impressions count, which is why it's particularly important to ensure that your exterior, as well as your interior, looks as presentable as possible.

The beauty of outdoor canopies is that they're not just available in different designs, they're also available in a wide range of variations too, such as walkway, entrance and waiting area canopies.

However, if you're looking for the 'wow' factor, it can be difficult to find suitable solutions that are: a) guaranteed to work and b) affordable.



When you're exploring the options available to you, make sure you look beyond the design. If you want a canopy that's going to stand the test of time, as well as look impressive, then you need to get down to the nitty gritty.

Is the system you're considering fit for purpose?



Will your supplier conduct a thorough survey to access its suitability on all levels?



Will they examine the surrounding ground, underlying pipes, roots and typography and check the strength of the adjoining wall(s)?



When you're exploring the options it's important you know 100% what the end product will involve, from the ground up. If your supplier answers to 'no' to any of the questions above or can't answer any them, then you might want to continue shopping around.



# Checklist: 4 key questions to ask your canopy supplier

As well as taking the right approach to investing in a new canopy, it's important you work with the right supplier to ensure that the final product is the best it possibly can be.

Here are just some of the key questions you should ask your supplier before working with them:



## 1 'Do they work with your sector?'

While it might sound like an obvious question, not all canopy manufacturers work within specific industries, which means they'll have limited insight into what you want to achieve. Working with a canopy supplier who specialises in your sector and has plenty of projects that they can refer to and draw upon, is a clear sign that they'll be able to transform your vision into reality.



## 2 'How much choice is there?'

Unless you've really been shopping around, you may not realise that outdoor canopy systems are available in a range of shapes and sizes, not just a standard, one size fits all design.

Many of the leading canopy suppliers provide systems in a number of designs for specific industries and can tailor their canopies to meet your specific requirements. It's essential your canopy is fit for purpose, so don't be afraid to ask for more of a bespoke system, if you feel it's required.



## 3 'What quality assurances are there?'

As with all projects, it's essential that your canopy is installed to the highest standards and adheres to the latest regulations. That's why it's particularly important to ask your supplier how they will ensure your system is of the highest quality.

Many canopies do come with some form of guarantee. The longer the guarantee, the more assured you can be that your system will be both reliable and resilient. For instance, all of our canopy systems comes with a comprehensive, ten-year installation and labour guarantee, as standard.



## 4 'How will your canopy be installed?'

Another key area that should never be overlooked is the installation of your canopy system. While it's not necessary for you to know every minute detail of the work that will be carried out, it's still important for you to be broadly aware of what your installation will entail.

Will your supplier conduct a full survey to make sure the environment is suitable and that the building work will be carried out safely and reliably? What checks will they conduct to ensure the building and/or wall you want your canopy to be fixed to is suitable? Here at Canopies UK, we use site-specific calculations, which enables us to avoid any nasty surprises during installation and ensure every system we install is fit for purpose and delivers in the longevity and performance stakes.



**Here at Canopies UK, we use site-specific calculations, which enables us to avoid any nasty surprises during installation and ensure every system we install is fit for purpose and delivers in the longevity and performance stakes.**

## Conclusion

Every canopy installation is different, there's no one size fits all approach, not if you want to get the best possible results from your investment. Taking the time to explore the different options available to you and ask the right questions at the outset makes for a canopy system that's delivered to the highest standards, meets your requirements and is engineered to last.



## About Canopies UK

Canopies UK is the country's leading designer, manufacturer and installer of high quality canopies. Celebrating its 25th anniversary in 2016, the company employs over 60 staff at its Lancashire headquarters, which incorporates offices, production space and warehousing.

Serving a multitude of sectors including hospitality, education, healthcare and construction, Canopies UK is proud to offer a ten-year guarantee on many of its canopy systems.

**For more information about our canopies or to discuss your canopy requirements with us, contact us on 01254 777 002, [info@canopiesuk.co.uk](mailto:info@canopiesuk.co.uk) or visit [www.canopiesuk.co.uk](http://www.canopiesuk.co.uk).**