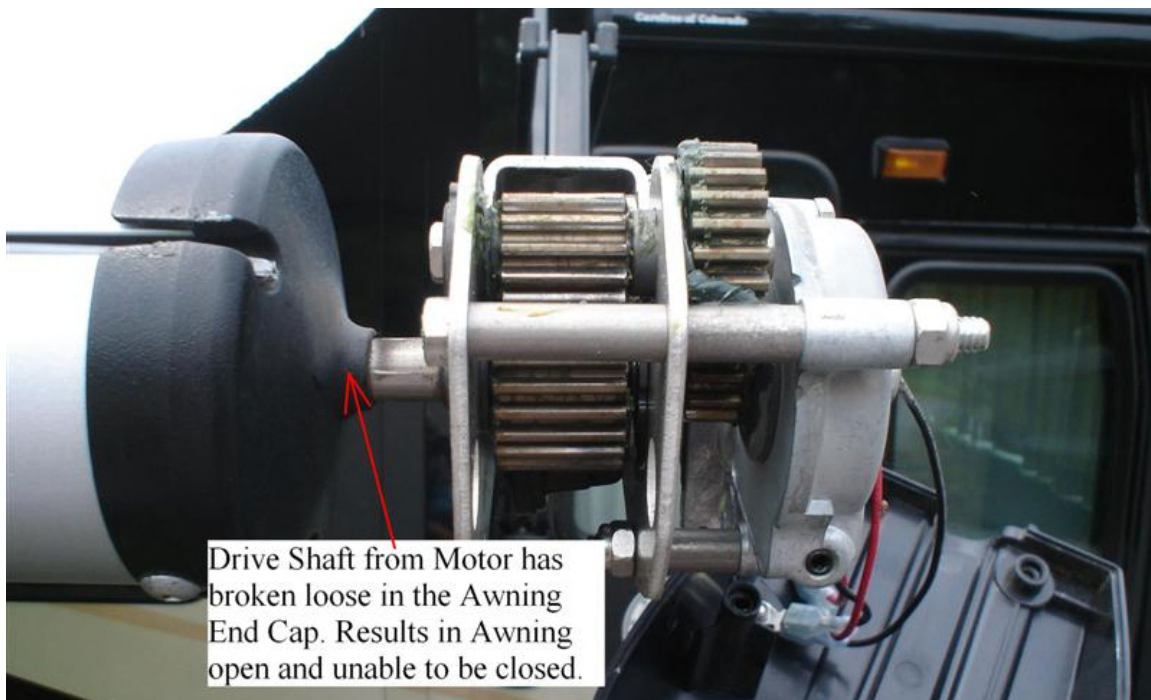




Carefree of Colorado Patio Awning Repair

What do you do when you have extended your coach main awning and now the awning will not retract?

We were faced with the extended awning problem last summer just as many other forum members have been faced with the same problem. I had extended the awning to shade the passenger side of the coach. Later I decided to retract the awning as there was a possibility of severe weather. Upon depressing the retract button, to close the awning nothing happened, the awning did not move. When depressing either extend or retract buttons I was able to hear the motor operate however saw no movement from the awning. After further testing the drive shaft which is inserted into the aluminum end cap was found to be slipping inside the end cap, the two components need to lock together in order to roll up the awning.



After reading the Carefree of Colorado awning manual I called their customer service telephone number. I am going to abbreviate my problems associated with that call to Carefree. In my case the phone call to Carefree of Colorado was a waste of time and effort, almost one week later my wife and I took matters into our own hands and effected the below repair.

Carefree of Colorado later told me they now make their Patio Awning drive shafts with two flat surfaces instead of the original one flat surface. The motor shaft is inserted into (mated with) the Aluminum awning end cap.

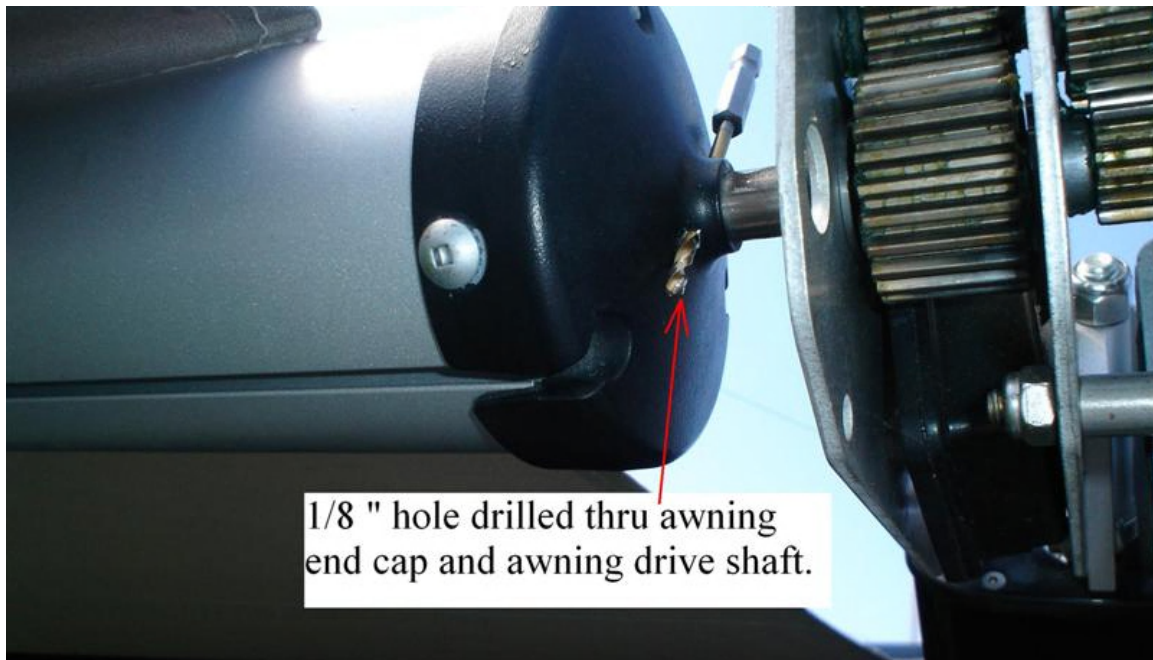


New Motor Shaft



Old Motor Shaft

After giving up on Carefree and their local warranty service center, I slept on the awning problem one more night. After talking it over with Cathey we decided to repair the awning ourselves. The repair if no additional problems are present should be neither hard to perform or expensive. I decided to drill a 1/8 inch hole thru the awning end cap and drive shaft, and install a 1/8 inch tension pin. Below is a picture of the location of the 1/8 inch hole. Drilling the hole while standing on a ladder held by Cathey would not have been my first choice. Had we been at home with more tools and a scaffold I would have removed the end cap and motor then used a drill press to drill the 1/8 inch hole.



It took a tense 30 minutes to slowly drill the hole. I was faced with aluminum on both sides of the end cap and a steel shaft in the middle. I was careful to keep the bit lined up centered on the drive shaft and both sides of

the end cap. After drilling the hole, the motor drive mechanism was tested (by leaving the drill bit in the hole) to make sure the goal had been achieved. A 9 volt battery was used to drive the motor in both extend and retract directions making sure everything worked as it should. The 1/8 inch TENSION PIN was purchased from the local Ace hardware store, at a cost of \$ 0.21 plus tax = \$ 0.23.



In a worse case scenario the Main Awning may deploy while you are driving down the highway. The ONLY way the awning is held closed is with the awning fabric being rolled on the awning tube and held closed by the worm drive motor. If the motor shaft slips on the awning end cap, the two air springs will extend deploying the awning. You can collapse the air springs and secure them close to the coach with heavy duty tie-wraps. Make sure to roll up and secure the awning fabric inside of the awning cover. The awning fabric can unfurl while driving down the road if the cover is not properly secured to prevent unfurling in the wind.

Hopefully this paper will help other owners who may find themselves in a similar situation.

Please use this information to make your own repairs or give the information to a individual or dealer to make repairs for you. Out of pocket costs could be in the hundreds of dollars performing a factory repair instead of less than one dollar for a Tension Pin.