

DESIGN GUIDELINES FOR AWNINGS & CANOPIES

This chapter presents design guidelines for the use of awnings and canopies. The design guidelines are organized into a series of relevant design topics. Within each category, individual policies and design guidelines are presented, which the City will use in determining the appropriateness of the work proposed.

For purposes of these guidelines, an awning is a structure with a fabric or material surface, usually sloped. A canopy is a rigid structure with a metal roof, generally mounted to the ground plane.



An awning compatible in material and construction to the style of the building is encouraged.

Policy: An awning or canopy should be similar to those seen historically.

Historically, awnings and canopies were noteworthy features of buildings in downtown and their continued use is encouraged.

10.1 An awning compatible in material and construction to the style of the building is encouraged.

- Operable awnings are encouraged on historic buildings.
- Use colors that are compatible with the overall color scheme of the facade. Solid colors or simple, muted-stripe patterns are appropriate.
- The awning should fit the opening of the building.
- Simple shed shapes are appropriate for rectangular openings.
- Odd shapes, bullnose awnings, and bubble awnings are inappropriate on most historic structures.



An awning should fit the window or storefront dimensions.



10.2 A fixed metal canopy may be considered.

- Appropriate supporting mechanisms are wall-mounted brackets, chains, and posts.
- Consider using a contemporary interpretation of those canopies seen historically.

10.3 Illumination related to awnings or canopies should be limited.

- Internal illumination in an awning is inappropriate.
- Lights may be concealed in the underside of a canopy.
- Shielded or low wattage lights may be used on the underside of a canopy.
- Lighting that shines onto sidewalks from the underside of a canopy or awning is encouraged.
- Rope/icicle lights are discouraged outside of the winter holiday season.

10.4 Mount an awning or canopy to accentuate character-defining features.

- It should be mounted to highlight moldings that may be found above the storefront and should not hide character-defining features.
- Its mounting should not damage significant features and historic details.

10.5 Maintenance of awnings and canopies is required.

- Replace worn fabric awnings or damaged metal canopies.
- Re-secure loose hardware.
- Wash fabric awnings regularly. This will help extend the life of the fabric. Spray with water from the underside first, to lift dirt particles, and then rinse them off.
- Paint metal canopies regularly, to reduce the potential for rust. This will extend the life of the canopy.



A fixed metal canopy may be considered where evidence demonstrates that one existed historically.



Consider using a contemporary interpretation of those canopies seen historically.