

# Doréma

Air Awnings



UK



**MANUAL-INSTRUCTIONS**

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# FOREWORD

Congratulations for purchasing a new Dorema Air awning. We would like to thank you for choosing Dorema and wish you lots of enjoyable camping holidays.

You are always assured of simplicity of erection along with guaranteed durability of a Dutch quality manufacturer: we don't leave anything to chance. After all this is your holiday. With Dorema you can see the built in camping expertise. The best quality fabric, extra reinforced stress points, innovative in many ways and easy and quick to erect on every surface. Our continuing process of selecting the very best in raw materials, along with our commitment to modern technology and recruitment of experienced staff makes Dorema stands out with lots of practical camping comforts. In practice we keep this promise into every detail. It's not by accident that Dorema is the best sold Air awning in Europe, again and again satisfied customers choose this make that has more to offer for less money.

In this handbook you will find all sorts of important information about your Air awning. It's full of practical tips concerning the upkeep and service of your new Air awning. Of course we have included a step by step guide on how to erect your Air awning, as well as informing you of the various optional accessories to make your Air awning even more complete.

To prevent any problems we strongly advise you to read this handbook thoroughly before you start to erect your Air awning. We also strongly advise you to erect your Air awning at least once before you commence your holidays. If you have any questions or problems please don't hesitate to contact your supplying dealer.

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# 1. BEFORE YOU GO CAMPING

## 1.1 Introduction

Now that you own this beautiful Dorema Air awning, it is very important to check and prepare everything before you go on holiday.

## 1.2 Checking your Air awning size

With the assistance of your dealer you will have chosen your correct Air awning size. If you have any doubts, please measure the roof line of your caravan again before you take the new awning out of its original packing. In the Dorema brochure you can find out how to get the exact roofline measurement of the caravan. **Please note that an awning taken out of its original packaging cannot be exchanged.**

## 1.3 Standard equipment

Dorema Air awnings are supplied with standard pegs which are suitable for normal camping. Special pegs designed for other types of ground conditions, such as sand or rocky grounds, are available from your local caravan dealer. The standard ladder straps will ensure the correct tension is applied to the Air awning. Draught skirt will be found rolled into the canvas part of your Air awning.



*TIP: Before you go on holiday attach all ladder straps onto the anchor fittings of your awning. This will save a lot of time when erecting the Air awning.*

## 2. FRAME / INFLATABLE TUBES

Your Dorema Air Awning is supplied with two types of Air tubes. The main tubes, fitted into the sleeve on the inner side of the Air awning, and the separate support tubes.

Depending on the size of the Air awning 3, 4 or 5 main Air tubes are mounted in the covers and 4, 6 or 8 pieces roof support Air tubes are delivered.

Please be aware that the Conture Air has different lengths of roof support tubes supplied. Due to the length of the arch-shaped main transport air hoses, it is possible that the position of the valve is not always exactly in the middle.

You can, if the main air tubing is not yet fully brought to full pressure, open the zipper of the grey box to reposition correctly. The air hoses functionality will not be negatively affected. Both situations, as seen in the pictures below, are considered normal.



*Only Futura Air All Season*

## 3. ERECTING YOUR AIR AWNING

**3.1** Ensure that the ground is free of stones and other sharp objects. You may wish to lay a plastic sheet on the ground to protect your awning. Unpack and spread the awning on the ground.

**3.2** Thread the beading, on the back of the Air awning, through the rail on the caravan to the desired position.

**3.3** Pitch your Air awning with pegs on each corner (2 front/2 rear). It is important to start with the two pegging points at the rear (closest to the caravan) and pull the Air awning towards and under the caravan to create a seal between the caravan and the Air awning. Take a line vertically from the edge of your caravan and peg in position and this will regulate the distance to the tubes at the front of the Air awning. The multi position pegging points allow flexibility. Make sure the Air awning is square and do not put too much pressure on the pegging points.

**3.4** The **Futura 220 Air**, **Magnum 260 Air** and **Magnum Air Force 260** are equipped with 3 pre-assembled arch shaped inflatable air tubes and 4 separate inflatable roof bars.

The **Futura 330 Air**, **Magnum 390 Air**, **Magnum Air Force 390** and **Contura 330** are equipped with 4 pre-assembled arch shaped air tubes and 6 separate inflatable roof bars.

The **Futura 440 Air**, **Magnum 520 Air**, **Magnum Air Force 520** and **Contura 440** are equipped with 5 pre-assembled arch shaped air tubes and 8 separate inflatable roof bars.

The air tubes can be inflated individually with the use of the enclosed double action pump. The arch shaped air tubes need to be inflated first.

## ERECTING YOUR AIR AWNING

**3.5** The valves of the arch shaped air tubes are located on the outside of the awning. Instead of the Futura Air All Season. The valves of the Futura Air All Season are located on the inside of the awning. **Please ensure the air inflation valves are screwed on tightly (Finger tight) before inflating.** Next, inflate the air tubes one by one working outwards from the center valve. It is recommended to push the air tubes into the arch shaped position as soon as the pressure increases in the air tubes. The double action pump is equipped with a manometer (Pressure Gauge). **Inflate all air tubes up to a pressure of between 4 to 6 Psi (= 0,3 – 0,4 bar).** Remove the pump inflation tube and seal the valves with the screw-on cap.

**3.6** The inflatable roof bars can now be fitted. The roof bars are fixed between the arch shaped tubes with the use of Velcro. Check if the complete awning is still standing in a rectangular shape at ground level and start pegging the awning.

**3.7** Ensure all the doors are closed when pegging the Air awning. It is important to start at the rear, closest to the caravan. The multi position pegging points allow flexibility. Make sure the awning is square and do not put too much pressure on the pegging points. Peg the remaining pegging points, cross pegging the doorways and entrances.

**3.8** In order to stabilize the cushion pads which are sewn in parallel to the caravan wall, the upright legs should be fitted. Place the adjustable upright leg with the flat end in the pocket located on top of the cushion pads. Adjust the upright legs to the correct height and secure them with the sewn in straps.

**3.9** Slide the draught skirt into the awning rail at the bottom of the caravan.

**3.10** The awning should be guyed using all the guying points. Failure to do so could result in premature failure.

### 3.11 Annex

For the models Magnum Air Force, Contura Air and Futura Air, there's a possibility to have an extension, on the left, or right hand side.

The extension can be connected with a zipper.

The main tube of the extension can be inflated and you can peg it down.



#### **Warning:**

The inflatable air tubes are secured in a light grey casing which is closed with a zip. The slider of the zip is secured with a plastic seal (Ty-rap). The zips should remain closed and are NEVER to be opened when the air tubes are inflated. Only in the event of a repair should the zip be opened. After the repair, the slider must ALWAYS be secured again with a Ty-rap as this will prevent the zip from opening spontaneously when re-inflating the air tube.

When you notice a decrease of the pressure in the air tube, please check if the valve is sufficiently tight first. Unscrewing the valve and re-assembling it again is usually the solution for this problem.

## 4. LEAKING AIR TUBES

As mentioned before in this instruction, first you need to make sure the valves are screwed on tightly enough (finger tight!). In case the air tube loses air slowly, unscrewing the valve and assembling it again is usually the simplest solution for the leakage. In case one of the air tubes really gets punctured it can be repaired in a simple way.



- (1) Remove the ty-rap from the slider and open the zip.
- (2) Remove the transparent air tube from the casing, fit the valve and inflate the tube with a pump.
- (3) Dip the tube under water and trace the leak.
- (4) Use the enclosed repair patch in order to close the leak.
- (5) Re-fit the air tube back into the casing, assemble the valve on the correct position, close the zip and ALWAYS secure the slider of the zip with a ty-rap. Your Dorema dealer can also supply all replacement parts. In case you do not have a repair patch available, a TEAR-AID repair patch type B can also be used. Type B is especially suitable for all PVC materials. Such a repair set is also available at your local dealer.

## 5. TAKING DOWN YOUR AIR AWNING

It is recommended to take the Air awning down when it is completely dry. Remove the roof bars and unscrew all the valves. The valves are secured to the grey casing in order to prevent loss. Only screw the valves back on when the awning is erected again. Fold or roll up the awning in such a way that the valves are kept free as long as possible in order to allow the air to escape.

## 6. DURING USE

Air Awnings containing a high proportion of synthetic materials are sometimes affected by condensation. This should not be confused with leakage and can normally be cured by ensuring that adequate ventilation is available by making full use of the awnings ventilation or by leaving doorways slightly unzipped whenever possible.

Avoid touching the inside surface of the awning when raining. Any leakage should be treated with a suitable reproofing spray. Don't pitch your awning under trees but make use of natural windbreaks like hedges and walls. Face the awning door away from the prevailing wind. When the awning has been taken down wet, it is vital to ensure the awning fabric is dried out completely within a maximum of twenty-four hours.

Do not cook in the awning or use naked flames. Read and understand the fire precautions label sewn into the inside of the awning.

## 7. CARE OF AWNING

### Awning

Awning fabrics can be weakened by prolonged exposure to sunlight. Under normal holiday use your awning will give long service but used for extended periods in strong sunlight will soon cause deterioration. In those cases it would be wise to use a site as shaded as possible. UV degradation is not covered under the awnings warranty. The warranty does not cover awnings for permanent or seasonal site use. This is the ideal awning for short breaks.

Awnings are best stored loosely packaged and ensure it is totally dry before packing away. Store in a well ventilated dry place. A wet/damp awning will develop mildew surprisingly quickly. Dirty awnings can be washed using clean water and a soft brush. Do not scrub and never use detergent.

Look after your awning and it will look after you. Have any damage repaired at the first opportunity. Zips should be treated with care, use two hands to close and open and do not tread on them. Never force a zip. We strongly recommend that you carry a comprehensive spares kit including silicone waterproof spray and spare guy ropes and pegs for extreme weather. We provide a small repair kit to cope with minor accidents and problems. If the patch is sewn onto the awning you will have to seal the stitch holes with seam seal.

If you have any queries relating to your Air awning, or its warranty, then please contact your supplying dealer.

During your holiday your awning can get pretty dirty. This can be caused by a number of reasons of course. For instance, when you have experienced a long period of dry weather, a lot of dust can be found on top of your awning. By regularly dusting the canvas with a dry brush you will prevent black runs from appearing after the first shower of rain. You can already start with some of the maintenance during the last day of your holiday. When the weather permits, you can start to clean the mud walls of the awning with lukewarm water and leave it to dry. After you eventually dismantle the awning, you can clean the ground sheet, draught skirt and pegs and dry them.

For cleaning the awning you should, regardless of the type of material, always use clean water (approx. 30 degrees) and a sponge or soft brush. Do not use detergent at any time as this can seriously damage the waterproof qualities of the canvas. We also strongly advise you not to purchase any of the cleaning detergents for canvases which are available at your camping stores, as these damage the waterproofing qualities of the canvas. Re-impregnating the canvas afterwards will often not deliver the desired effect. Not all stains can be removed just with clean water. Below this we will explain how specific stains can be removed for the greater part.

### 7.1 Resin stains

Make sure all resin stains are cured sufficiently first. When the resin is cured sufficiently, it can easily be ground to powder. Carefully remove any remains with a spoon or knife and make sure you do not damage the fabric.



*TIP:* It is preferred not to camp underneath trees that drip resin; resin damages the canvas.

### 7.2 Tree leaves

Tree leaves pigment can come off tree leaves leaving stains on the canvas that are difficult to remove. Especially moist leaves tend to stick to the fabric. So please be alert and remove leaves as soon as possible.

### 7.3 Grease stains

Dab butter, gravy or oil stains as soon as possible with kitchen paper. Any remains can be removed later with the help of an iron (coolest position) and kitchen paper. Put the paper on the concerning spot and warm the paper with the iron so that the grease is absorbed by the paper.

### 7.4 Bird droppings

There is no standard method for cleaning this type of stain. The best thing to do is to scrape or wipe the remains from the canvas as soon as possible. Then clean the spot with lots of lukewarm water and leave any remaining stains. Normally these remains will automatically disappear eventually.

### 7.5 Mildew

Mildew caused by moist weather can be recognized by small brown spots which are found inside the canvas. In most cases this happens because a moist awning has been packed too long. Regardless of the type of the material the awning is made from, you always need to make sure that when an awning is packed wet, it is hung to dry within twenty-four hours and has the opportunity to dry properly.

Mildew can also occur when the canvas is used during a long period of time in a moist environment. During the production of most awnings synthetic fibers are used which are coated.

With most fabrics this coating is on the outside of the canvas only, because of this, this material will cause almost no condensation because the fibers on the inside of the awning will absorb some of the moisture. In this damp condition mildew can start to settle, which will then lead to the brown spots as mentioned before. Most of the condensation is caused by large differences in temperature. This occurs specifically during spring and autumn. When the humidity in the awning is high for a long period of time, brown spots can appear on the inside of the awning. Permanent site campers will therefore experience mildew quicker than people who camp only a few weeks during the summertime. Otherwise, the mildew does not effect the quality of the roof material and has also no negative influence on the durability of the awning. Cleaning these brown spots is reasonably possible. The inside of the roof can be treated with a mixture of one part of bleach and ten parts of water. With the use of a sponge or soft brush you can rub on this mixture.

After the canvas has dried, you will notice that 80% to 90% of the spots have disappeared. Partially some of these spots might still be visible, this is inherent to the material. In case you feel the need to do so you can repeat this treatment. By using a ground sheet with good sealing qualities condensation built up can be reduced dramatically. In case you use an awning carpet, it is advisable to use some foil underneath the carpet to avoid condensation from building up. Of course it is very important that there is enough ventilation.

**Note:** In case of heavy contamination of your inflatable tent, we recommend to clean, using products from our DEFA accessories line. These products are available from your supplier.

## **8. EXPOSURE TO UV RADIATION**

Our inflatable tent line produced of TenCate material provides good protection against UV. Despite all the precautions, these materials can age when used under the influence of UV. Therefore, we recommend choosing a shady camping spot for your vacation. Most zippers are covered, which prevents premature aging and pollution. Using a highly reflective roof material also provides protection against UV radiation.

## 9. STORING YOUR AIR AWNING

After you have cleaned the Air awning completely, it is very important to store the canvas in a dry place.



*TIP: Prevent canvas and window material from getting into contact with materials which contain rubber or PVC such as: boots, cables, doormats, plastic covers or something similar. Because of softeners being used in numerous materials brown spots can start to appear inside the canvas and window material which are impossible to remove.*

### **Window material**

The window material used in Air awnings, is made from relatively soft materials. This means that the otherwise very smooth window material, by folding it between the other materials, can copy the relief of zips, canvas and mud walls into the window material. When you store the Air awning after you have camped, we would like to advise you to lay out all the panels, which have the window material, as flat as possible and not roll them tightly. The chance of slight marks or imprints been left on the window material will be minimized.

Regarding the window material we also would like to mention that every new Air awning, which comes straight out of the packing, is likely to have some creases and marks from been packed. When the Air awning is erected and tightly tensioned in warm weather conditions for a longer period of time, these marks will largely disappear. However window material is very complex material and therefore minor imperfections will need to be accepted as this is inherent to the material.

If your awning is stored at the end of the season, it is important that the awning is in a clean and dry condition.

Window Decals always lay inside

- Always fold the window material on the inside
- Do not fold or roll the canvas too tight
- Always store the roof with the coated side out
- Avoid contact with zippers and window material
- Do not pack stones, leaves or grass clippings
- Window blinds can serve as protection for the window film
- Avoid packing sharp objects

If you follow this advice you are assured of a long enjoyment of your awning.

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