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CAREFREE R001331

Carefree R001331 Awning Gas Spring Kit User Manual

Model: R001331 | Brand: CAREFREE

INTRODUCTION

This manual provides comprehensive instructions for the installation, operation, maintenance, and troubleshooting of the Carefree R001331 Awning Gas Spring Kit. This gas spring is designed to assist in the smooth extension and retraction of your RV awning, ensuring proper function and longevity.

The Carefree R001331 is a direct replacement gas spring, specifically engineered for compatibility with Carefree brand awnings. It is not compatible with other brands of awnings.

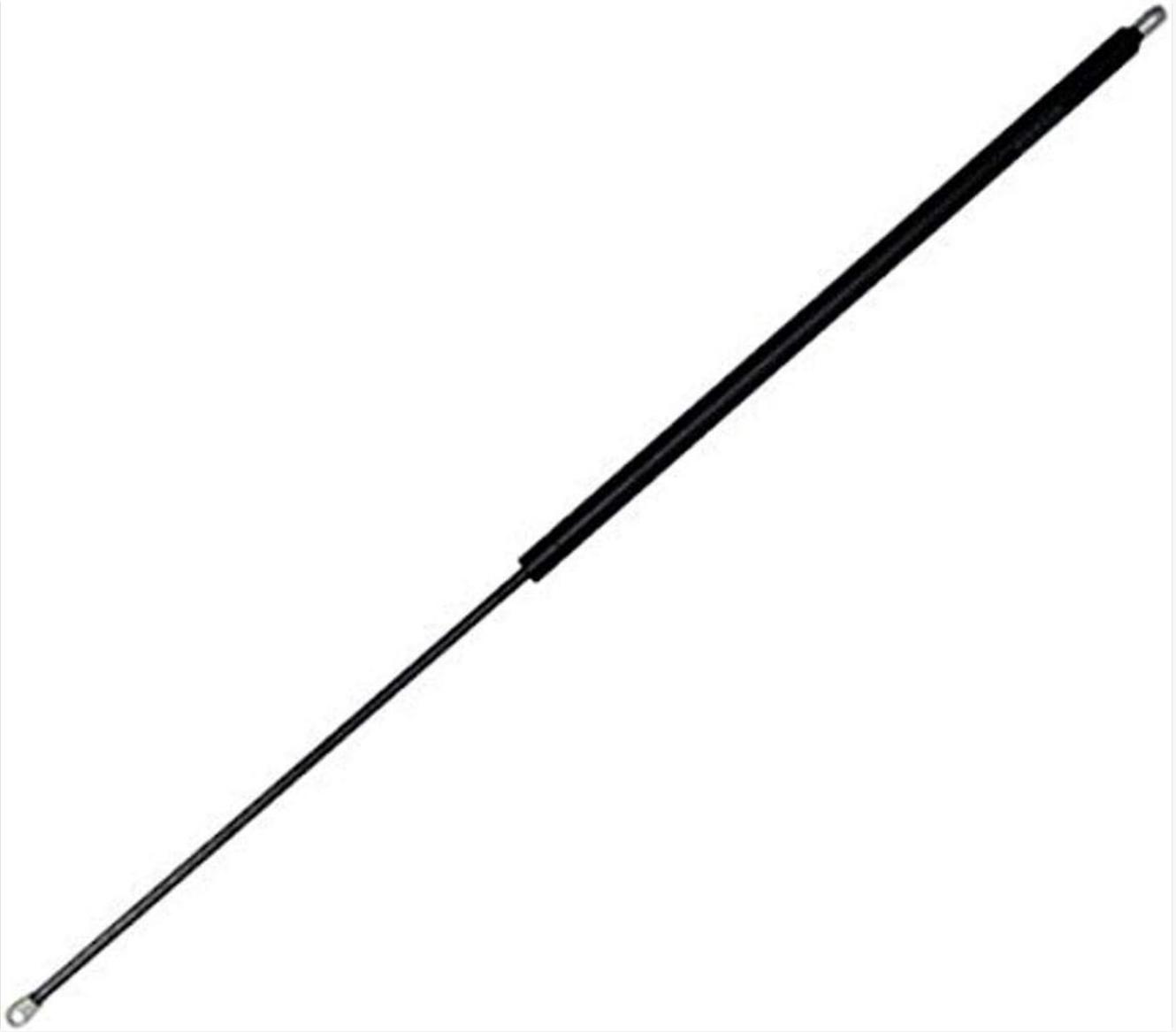


Image: The Carefree R001331 Awning Gas Spring Kit, a black gas strut with silver ends, shown against a white background.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

Always read and understand all instructions before attempting installation or maintenance. Failure to follow these instructions could result in injury or damage to the product or property.

- **Wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE)**, including safety glasses and gloves, during installation.
- **Exercise caution when working with spring-loaded mechanisms.** Gas springs are under pressure and can release energy suddenly.
- **Ensure the awning is properly supported and secured** before removing the old gas spring to prevent unexpected movement.
- **Do not attempt to disassemble or puncture the gas spring.** It contains pressurized gas.
- **Keep hands and fingers clear** of pinch points during installation and operation.

Verify that all components are present before beginning installation:

- Carefree R001331 Awning Gas Spring (Main component only)

Note: This kit includes the gas spring only. Existing hardware such as eyelets or mounting brackets from your original awning arm may need to be reused.

INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

The installation of the Carefree R001331 Gas Spring is generally straightforward. It is recommended to have assistance to safely support the awning during the process.

Tools Required (Not Included):

- Appropriate wrench or socket for existing mounting hardware (if applicable)
- Gloves (e.g., vinyl gloves) for better grip and protection
- Awning support poles or equivalent to secure the awning in an open position

Procedure:

1. **Prepare the Awning:** Fully extend your RV awning and secure it using appropriate support poles or by having an assistant hold it firmly in place. This is crucial to prevent the awning from collapsing unexpectedly.
2. **Locate the Existing Gas Spring:** Identify the gas spring on your awning arm that requires replacement.
3. **Remove Old Gas Spring:** Carefully unscrew or detach the ends of the old gas spring from its mounting points. Note how the old spring was oriented. Some gas springs may have threaded ends that simply unscrew from the eyelets.
4. **Transfer End Fittings (if applicable):** If your new gas spring does not come with pre-attached end fittings, you will need to reuse the end fittings from your old gas spring. These typically unscrew from the old unit and screw onto the new one. Ensure they are securely tightened by hand; over-tightening with tools is generally not required and can damage the threads.
5. **Install New Gas Spring:** Attach one end of the new Carefree R001331 Gas Spring to its mounting point on the awning arm. Then, carefully compress or extend the gas spring as needed to align the other end with its corresponding mounting point and secure it.
6. **Test Operation:** Once the new gas spring is securely installed, carefully remove the awning supports and test the awning's extension and retraction. It should operate smoothly and hold its position correctly.

Important Note: *The gas spring is designed to provide assistance. If the awning still sags or does not operate smoothly after installation, ensure all mounting points are secure and the correct gas spring model has been installed for your awning's specifications.*

OPERATION

The Carefree R001331 Awning Gas Spring functions automatically to assist in the movement of your RV awning. It provides the necessary force to help extend the awning and dampen its retraction, preventing sudden drops or uncontrolled movement.

- **Extension:** As you extend your awning, the gas spring will assist in pushing the awning arms outwards, making the process smoother and requiring less manual effort.
- **Retraction:** When retracting the awning, the gas spring will control the speed of the arm's collapse, preventing

it from slamming shut and reducing wear on the awning mechanism.

Always follow the specific operating instructions for your particular Carefree RV awning model. The gas spring is a component that enhances the awning's functionality, not its primary control mechanism.

MAINTENANCE

The Carefree R001331 Awning Gas Spring is designed for durability and requires minimal maintenance. However, periodic inspection can help ensure its longevity and proper function.

- **Visual Inspection:** Regularly inspect the gas spring for any signs of damage, such as dents, corrosion, or leaks. Check the mounting points for looseness or wear.
- **Cleanliness:** Keep the gas spring clean and free of dirt, dust, and debris. A damp cloth can be used for cleaning. Avoid using harsh chemicals or abrasive cleaners.
- **Lubrication:** The gas spring is a sealed unit and does not require internal lubrication. Do not attempt to lubricate the shaft or seals, as this can attract dirt and potentially damage the unit.
- **Storage:** If the RV is stored for extended periods, ensure the awning is retracted and secured according to your RV manufacturer's guidelines.

If any damage or significant wear is observed, the gas spring should be replaced to maintain optimal awning performance and safety.

TROUBLESHOOTING

Common Issues and Solutions

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
Awning sags or does not extend fully.	Weak or failing gas spring. Incorrect gas spring model.	Replace the gas spring with the correct Carefree R001331 model. Ensure proper installation.
Awning retracts too quickly or slams shut.	Failing gas spring (loss of damping).	Replace the gas spring.
Gas spring makes unusual noises (squeaking, grinding).	Damage to the unit or mounting points.	Inspect the gas spring and its mounting hardware for damage. Replace if necessary.
Difficulty installing the new gas spring.	Misalignment, incorrect end fittings, or awning not properly supported.	Ensure awning is fully supported. Verify correct end fittings are used and aligned. Do not force the spring.

If troubleshooting steps do not resolve the issue, contact Carefree customer support or a qualified RV service technician.

SPECIFICATIONS

Model: R001331

Type: Gas Spring/Shock

Color: Black

Extended Length: 36 Inches

Item Weight: 1 pound

Product Dimensions: 36 x 2 x 1 inches

Manufacturer: Carefree of Colorado

Manufacturer Part Number: R001331

UPC: 740544610678

Compatibility: Not compatible with other brands of awnings.

WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

For specific warranty information regarding your Carefree R001331 Awning Gas Spring Kit, please refer to the warranty documentation provided with your original awning purchase or visit the official Carefree of Colorado website.

For technical assistance, replacement parts, or further inquiries, please contact Carefree of Colorado customer support:

- **Website:** www.carefreeofcolorado.com
- **Customer Service:** Refer to the manufacturer's website for current contact information (phone, email).

When contacting support, please have your product model number (R001331) and any relevant purchase information ready.