



Carport/ Canopy: Complete Care & Maintenance Guide

Your Kappion structure is engineered from premium materials designed to provide decades of service. However, like any high-performance architectural product, its longevity and aesthetic finish depend on a proactive maintenance schedule. This guide outlines the essential steps to protect your investment and maintain your Warranty coverage.

1. Safety and Precautions

- **Safety First:** Climbing ladders and working at height is inherently dangerous. Always use the correct equipment, personal protection, and ensure a second person is present to steady ladders.
- **Structural Edges:** While we remove sharp edges during fabrication, steel is an unforgiving material. Gloves are essential when cleaning gutters or handling structural components.
- **No Climbing:** Never attempt to walk on the polycarbonate roof. Use telescopic tools and stay on secured ladders or platforms.

2. The Polycarbonate Roof

To maintain light transmission and the integrity of the seals, your roof requires cleaning at least 1–2 times per year.

Step	Procedure
1. Initial Rinse	Hose down the surface with a standard garden hose to remove loose grit and debris.
2. Chemical Warning	DO NOT USE PRESSURE WASHERS. High-pressure jets can damage rubber seals and strip UV coatings, voiding your Warranty.
3. Main Wash	Use a soft microfiber mop and a bucket of mild detergent (e.g., pH-neutral washing-up liquid). Follow the direction of the flutes.
4. Stubborn Marks	For bird droppings or tree sap, spray a small amount of WD-40 on the spot, let it sit for 60 seconds, then rinse immediately with clean water.

3. Gutters and Downpipes

Blocked gutters are the primary cause of overflow and drainage issues.

- **Frequency:** Check and clear gutters at least twice a year, or more frequently if trees are nearby.
- **Hedgehog Brushes:** For areas with high leaf fall, we recommend gutter brushes to keep channels free-flowing.
- **Downpipe Maintenance:** Use a running hose (without attachments) to push water through the downpipe to clear potential blockages.

4. Timber Cladding (Thermowood & Larch)

Thermowood and Siberian Larch are durable timbers that do not require sealing to maintain structural integrity, but they will naturally oxidize over time.

- **Wood Greying:** Under UV exposure, timber will turn a silvery-grey colour. This is an aesthetic characteristic, not a structural defect.
- **Saturators:** To preserve the original colour, apply a non-opaque penetrating oil (Saturator) proactively. Avoid film-forming varnishes or paints which can peel.
- **Cleaning Wood:** If black spots appear, use a concentrated Wood Cleaner followed by a Wood Degreaser before re-applying a saturator.

5. Winter Care: Snow & Ice Management

While designed for significant snow loads, the primary risk to any structure is **Ice Formation**.

- **Preventative Brushing:** Use a long-handled soft broom to remove snow before nightfall to prevent it from refreezing into a heavy ice sheet.
- **Avoid Sagging:** Dense ice buildup can exert considerable weight on roof panels. Gently brush snow off to protect the panel integrity.

6. SPECIAL SECTION: Coastal & High-Salinity Locations

In sea locations (defined as any area within 2 miles of the coast), the environment is significantly more aggressive. Salt accumulation is an **ionic contaminant** that requires specialised care.

The "Salt Never Sleeps" Principle

In a coastal environment, salt is a delivery system for moisture. If left on the surface, salt undergoes **calcification**, forming a rock-hard crystalline crust that cannot be removed with standard soap.

Coastal Care Requirements

- **Increased Rinsing:** Structures in sea locations must be rinsed with fresh water at least **every two weeks**, and immediately following any major storm.
- **Fresh Water Only:** Frequent fresh-water rinsing prevents salt from bonding to the textured "matchbox matt" finish.
- **Identify "Salt" vs. "Rust":** White powdery crust is calcified salt, not a product defect. If left uncleaned, it can lead to surface "bleeding" on cut edges.

CRITICAL CHEMICAL WARNING

NEVER use automotive pre-washes high-pH alkaline chemicals on your carport. These are designed for vehicle paint and will strip the architectural powder coating, revealing the galvanising and voiding your Warranty.

7. Maintenance Log

We strongly recommend keeping a simple log of your maintenance activities. Recording dates of rinses and deep cleans provides vital documentation should you ever need to make a claim.