

SheltaPod

ATTACHMENT TO VEHICLE

There are FIVE attachment methods used by SheltaPod for attaching to different vehicles. It can attach to most vehicles using the four webbing straps included in the bag. The 5 mtr straps clip into buckles, there are two for the side and two that go over the vehicle roof. This is called the 'over the top' method whereby the user throws two straps over the roof then uses the loop at the end to peg into the ground on the opposite side to SheltaPod. The straps are adjustable so can then be tightened. The other two straps run down the front and rear of the vehicle to stop the edge of the sun canopy from slipping side to side.



This method can be used on any flat roof van, trailer, caravan and can also be used for attaching to the tailgate/rear of a hatchback vehicle. This method can be combined with the Velcro straps allowing SheltaPod to attach to cars, SUV and 4x4 using the roof bars/racks. There are three velcro double sided straps on the underside of the attachment edge that wrap around the roof bars/rack which help to keep the sun canopy in position. Using the velcro straps adds another level of stability and strength to the attachment method. The webbing straps are then used to make the canopy taut.



The Velcro is double sided so that it can be rolled up when not in use and stops it from being caught when the sliding doors open and close on campervans.



But the main attachment method and most popular for campervans and caravans is the C channel. This is a C shaped channel which can be incorporated into a single aluminum strip or a multi rail which also has a gutter rail above (more on gutter rails later).



Aluminium C channel strip



Awning Multi-Rail (C channel below & Gutter above)

The white beading strip on the awning edge slides into this C channel. The standard size is 6mm but it can also be 4mm or 8mm as well. SheltaPod has 6mm beading.



This beading strip can thread straight into the C channel on a campervan/caravan however once attached the user cannot drive away and leave the awning in place. This is because it's impossible to thread the beading out of the C channel without unpegging the whole awning. Users who want to driveaway leaving SheltaPod erect and then return later must use a 'driveaway awning kit'.

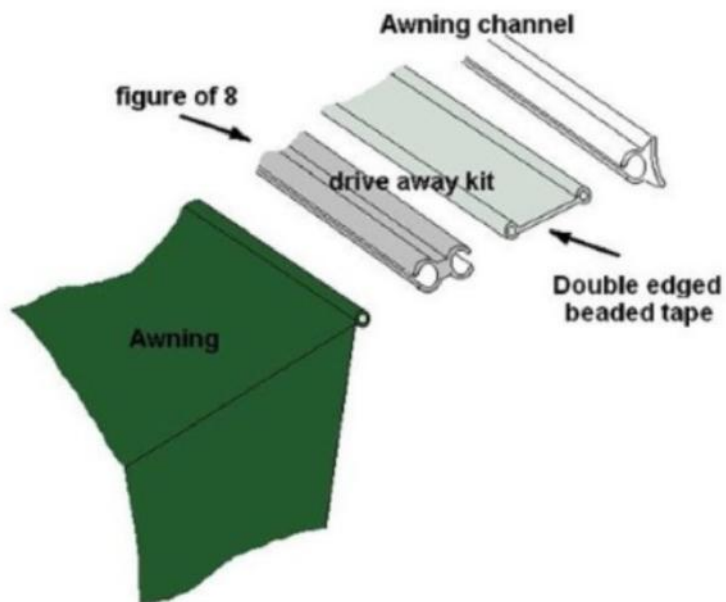


SheltaPod in drive away mode.



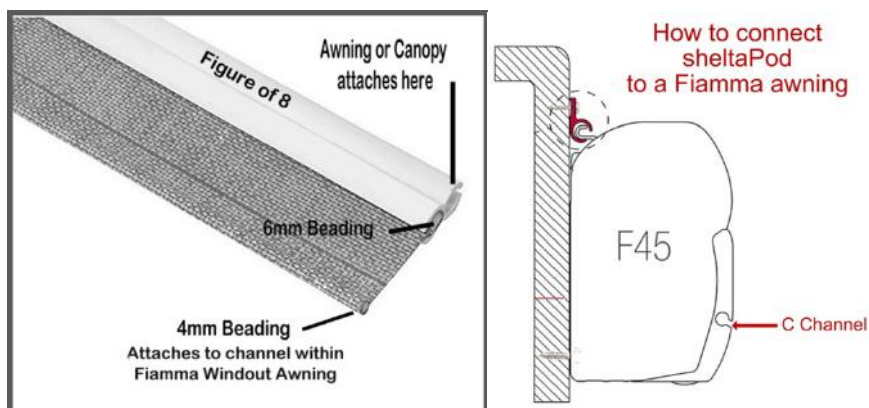
Attach to vehicle using driveaway kit

The driveway kit consists of a double-edged beaded tape, otherwise known as a 'Kador strip' which slides into the C channel on the vehicle. The 'figure of 8' plastic strip slides onto that. Then the beading on the awning slides into the 'figure of 8'



If the user is wants to attach to a campervan that has a wind out or roll out awning like a Fiamma, this is possible by using the C channel that Fiamma incorporate underneath their awning.

The only issue is the beading dimensions. Fiamma and older roll out awnings can often be 4mm. But Kador make a conversion strip which has 4mm on one side and 6mm on the other.



Older style VWT2/3 retro campervans tend to have a Gutter rail and this is also included on the top of an awning Multi-Rail. To attach to a gutter rail, SheltaPod has a pole sleeve. The user needs to purchase separately a pole and three butterfly clips but these are widely available at most camping stores – <https://www.campingandleisure.co.uk/kampa-pole-and-clamp-kit-for-driveaway-awnings.html>



The last but not least preferable method is using suction clamps. There are three semi-circle gaps in the pole sleeve which allow for access onto the pole inside. The clamps attach onto the pole and then are suctioned onto the vehicle, either on the flat roof or side of the vehicle.



The suction clamp method is not ideal because sometimes the suction clamps loosens off (especially if it rains) and can come free. These have to also be purchased separately - <https://www.ebay.co.uk/itm/Adjustable-Brass-Suction-Awning-Canopy-Clamp-for-Vehicles-W-O-Rain-Gutter-C9050/152613878670?hash=item23887efb8e:g:MBoAAMXQhpdRpyYS>

Another method of attaching to a flat roof is by using a Magnetic Driveaway Connector like the one shown below (Outdoor Revolution). These are a good alternative to the velcro straps and should also be used alongside the webbing straps for extra strength and stability.



OTHER USER GUIDANCE FOR CUSTOMERS (also see SheltaPod Instructions)

Use seam sealant (ie: Fabsil) on the white C channel attachment strip to protect against leaks. (see 'WHEN IT RAINS' section below). Also use seam sealant tape on any accidental rips or tears that occur during use.

SET UP

Attach the awning to your vehicle and then feed the aluminum poles through the pole sleeves. Do all three together taking each pole sleeve in stages and then locate into the pole pins. At the other end, gather all the poles together and push further into the pole sleeves to create the arch of the Pod tent. Locate the poles into the pole pins to secure the arch shape.

TOP TIP: If you find it difficult to insert the aluminum poles into the tent pins, push the other end against your vehicle tyre and bend the poles even more. This should give you a few more centimeters of leverage. There are also adjustable straps to help with this stage of set up.

Once you have secured the aluminum poles, stand the Pod tent up and pull it away from the vehicle as far as the canopy will allow. Ensure that the canopy is even (it will be loose and flapping at this stage) and the doorway of the Pod is vertical and straight before pegging down. Once the Pod tent is pegged down, insert the vertical and horizontal poles into canopy. Immediately lengthen the vertical poles upwards until the canopy becomes taut.

WARNING - DO NOT insert the vertical poles into the canopy until the Pod is pegged down securely. Immediately lengthen the poles upwards so that the canopy fabric becomes taut. This will hold the pole in place. Take care when attaching the horizontal pole to ensure that the vertical poles don't come loose and fall against your vehicle. Immediately attach a guy line to each vertical pole above the fabric and onto the pole pin (see pic). Peg the other end of the guy lines securely into the ground. This will keep the canopy in place if there is a sudden gust of wind and reduce the chance of it detaching from the vertical pole pin which could then result in the pole falling against your vehicle.



[SheltaPod cannot be held responsible for any vehicle scratches or damage this may cause]

WHEN IT RAINS

To stop the water from pooling around the vehicle attachment edge, lower one of the vertical poles in the canopy to let the water run off. This will also reduce the chance of leaks above the vehicle doorway. This is more likely to happen if you are using the C channel attachment method. (see 'BEFORE USE' section above)
Make sure to tighten the guy line attached to the vertical pole pin so that it remains taut. (see 'WARNING' section above)

