



Lois & Chris Stoppel

Advanced Upholstery & Canvas, Inc.

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Chris and Lois Stoppel pick up where your home sewing machine leaves off - and then some.

The couple operates Advanced Upholstery and Canvas in Acme. Not only do they stock more than 20,000 upholstery fabric samples in their showroom, they also specialize in awnings - featuring Sunbrella Patio Awnings - and do a brisk business in marine canvas.

Chris and Lois make a natural pairing in business as well as in life. Chris has a background in graphic arts and Lois holds a degree in textiles and enjoys working with fabric, canvas and upholstery. Chris heads up the awning division, designing, building and installing custom awnings for residential as well as commercial clients.

"If it's a sewn product, we do it," said Chris. "We believe in giving our customers 110 percent. And that attitude probably explains the explosion of growth we've seen in our residential awning market."

The Stoppels also work with zoning and planning officials to make sure that local requirements are met when new awnings are installed. They feel it's important to uphold the aesthetics that make northern Michigan so attractive to residents and visitors alike.

Current clients include the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island, the blue awnings at the Farmers Market, Clinch Park Marina Roll-Up Drops, Radio Center, Traverse Country Store and Village Station in Kalkaska.