

Working with width

With the hectic demands been placed on the trucking industry, the need for a quick, easy to operate covering method is vital. It has to be efficient, reliable and environmentally effective and it shouldn't cost the earth.



Tipper Tarps have been a leader in the industry for close to 7 years now covering and securing loads. Whatever the kind of truck or trailer it may be, if the load needs covering, they have the solutions. Currently based in Ringwood, part of Melbourne's outer east, Mick Robinson is servicing a growing list of satisfied customers, both local and interstate. The owner of Tipper Tarps, Michael Robinson comes from a bodybuilding background, and has built his business from fitting tarps for local contractors as merely a sideline to employing a full time



team of tarp fitters servicing major body-builders, transport companies, and shire councils.

Since those early days Tipper Tarps, which is now a registered trade mark, have grown and developed along with the mainstream "tarping" technology and have developed a strong reputation for themselves producing a wide variety of their own ground operated tarp systems as well as being agents for other well known brands such as Retractable Tarps, Vanderhoek Tarps,

Rolla tarp, and Bartlett Tarps. The range includes:

- Rollover tarps
- Wind out tarps
- Pull out tarps
- Any custom-made tarping requirements.
- Hydraulic and electric models available
- Curtain sides

Electric wind out tarps have been available for some time now but recently Tipper Tarps has pioneered the development of electric and hydraulic roll over tarps that can be operated via a remote control.

A hot topic for debate at the moment is the issue of over width tarp systems. Truck tarps were originally designed as a safety item to contain loads and prevent pollution and flying debris causing a hazard on the roads. With the introduction of OH&S laws these tarps were then forced to

Got you covered

Safety

A major advantage of the Tipper Tarps is safety, as the system is operated from ground level so there is no need to climb on top to fasten the load. This ensures best-practice occupational health standards, minimising claims and losses through workers compensation.

Speed

Time is money and Tipper Tarps can save both by dramatically reducing turnaround time. There's no need to waste time secur-

ing loads, the load can be uncovered or covered in moments.

For even more speed, there are electric/hydraulic options available; the driver simply presses a button arriving or departing a destination and the system operates while driving.

Durability

Tipper Tarps sources the very best in materials and components. All hardware, if not aluminium or stainless steel, is either zinc plated or galvanised for long life. Tarp material is

either high quality 900g.s.m. p.v.c. or industry proven woven monofilament heavy duty mesh.

Versatility

In a truck or trailer; large or small, Tipper Tarps will custom make a system to suit and back it with spare parts. Every system is tailor made in the workshop to suit individual needs.

Environmental

There are no spillages with Tipper Tarps; no accidental fall-offs or blow aways – the load is always fully covered; a definite plus to meet environmental and safety requirements. ■

become ground operated. Now to complicate things, we have been told that many of these safe tarping systems will be deemed illegal.

"As tarp manufacturers we have to try and work closely with government bodies and Trailer builders to make sure that the trailers are legal. Up until the last couple of years we apparently had 50mm each side over and above the 2500mm maximum width in which to fit our systems, as they were classed as a load binding device. Now all that has changed and authorities are rigidly enforcing the law as 2500mm maximum, discounting the fact that these tarps are 3 or 4 metres in the air and that things like mirrors are even wider again. Over the years body builders have pushed their sides out to maximum width to satisfy the requests of bulk handlers. Most of these trailers have some form of tarp systems fitted. It is difficult and can be very costly to modify these trailers and or tarps to literally thousands of new and existing units.

Manufacturing and fitting

A majority of the work is completed in-house by skilled team of employees at the factory and workshop but much of the fitting is done onsite at the customers premises also. "We are quite

flexible and try to work in with what is best for our customers. Many of our local customers like us to be on call

new exciting period of growth and development with a new, state-of-the-art, 425 sqm premises at Bayswater in mid



which is fine with us. Others are happy to bring their gear in so we can work on it here".

"We have customers all over Australia, who purchase our tarps in kit form. Systems are custom made to suit each particular body using a detailed list of measurements and usually contain everything required to complete the job". Tipper Tarps is about to embark on a

2004, which will feature permanent worksafe scaffolds to facilitate the fitting of tarp systems, which can be as high as 4.3 metres above ground level. ■

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