

Installing WBCCI Numbers

General Instructions

The Blue Book indicates the numbers should be placed on the front and rear at the top of the RV. If it is not possible to center the numbers, they should be placed to the right. In all cases, the round WBCCI decal should be centered above the numbers or in the most visible location available.

Number Placement on Trailer

On the front of trailers, place a yard stick against the top of the Airstream decal and draw a light pencil line along the top for the entire width the numbers will require. On the rear of trailers, place a yardstick on the top of the clearance lights and draw the line. These lines will serve as base lines for the number placement.

Number Placement on Newer Motorhome

Models and years of motorhomes will differ in the space available for number placement. On newer motorhomes numbers are reasonably easy to place at the front, but there is more variation with the rear placement.

On the front of the motorhome, center the numbers vertically between the windshield top molding and the reflectors at the top of the coach. Using a yardstick, draw a light pencil line for the base line of the numbers over the entire width they will require. On the rear of the motorhome, there are several considerations for placement such as reflectors, rear cameras, and various decals or paint schemes depending on model or year. On some motorhomes you can draw the base line by splitting the vertical difference between the rear camera and the motorhome decal. In splitting the difference, draw the pencil line for the base line of the numbers eight inches below the bottom of the backup camera housing or twenty inches below the reflectors if your coach does not have a backup camera. You may choose to adjust these measurements slightly based on whether the proposed numbers will be close to any decal on the rear of the coach. On the back of the newer motorhomes, the mounting surface is vertical and highly polished. Placement of wet numbers on this mounting surface is highly polished. It is best to do the front numbers first for experience.

Number Placement on Classic Motorhome

On the limited mounting space at the front of Classic motorhomes some people have spaced the numbers between the reflectors, while others place them to the right of the last reflector. On the rear of Classic motorhomes there is space to work above the clearance lights. Place the yardstick on the lights and draw the pencil line for the base line of the numbers.

Positioning

The new numbers arrive packaged with a back piece of protective paper. The back paper is opaque and shiny and is against the adhesive part of the red number. Cut the paper vertically along the sides of each number and horizontally along the top and bottom to form a rectangle. Since numbers have different widths, their spacing is not necessarily uniform from one to the next. Use a one inch piece of masking tape to tape the top of each number in its approximate position, making sure that the bottom of each number is on the pencil line. Have an assistant stand back and make recommendations for spacing based on visual appeal. Adjust until the spacing seems correct, then put a small piece of masking tape on the bottom of each number, get off the ladder and step back to see if you are happy with the total look. Be especially careful of 3, 6, 8, 9, and 0 since they can twist slightly from the vertical.

When you are happy with all spacing and alignment, carefully make pencil marks on your Airstream at various spots along the edge or corner of each number so you will be able to place it on that exact spot after the back papers are removed. Put a quart of water and a squirt of liquid detergent in a wash basin. Stir to mix the detergent and bring along a wash cloth. Remove one number at a time from its position on the surface and reapply following the directions below.

Installation

Soak the wash cloth and pat (so as not to remove the pencil marks) the mounting surface wet with the detergent solution. Peel the back opaque shiny paper off to expose the adhesive side of the number. Wet the adhesive side of the number so that during your next step you do not inadvertently get the adhesive side of the number stuck to itself. Be especially careful with 1, 8, and 0 so you don't try to place the nonadhesive side against the mounting surface. Place the number onto the very wet surface. You will be able to move the number along the surface as if the adhesive is not there. Keep it wet and move it into position based on your pencil marks. When it is on the exact spot, place your fingers on it and gently push out the excess water and/or air from between the adhesive side of the number and the mounting surface. As previously mentioned, this step is especially delicate on the back of a motorhome. If there are bubbles that you cannot remove, give the numbers an hour and a half to dry and then either push them out gently or pin prick them. Do each of the other numbers in order, then walk away. All of the numbers will dry and the adhesive will hold as if you had put the numbers on dry. Erase the pencil lines several days later.

Removing Old Numbers

For trailers or motorhomes that have old numbers to be removed, a hair dryer will soften the adhesive and allow them to be peeled off. Use a heavy extension cord so the amps are sufficient for dryer heat. Don't get anxious - peel carefully and aim the dryer right at your work area trying to get each number off in one piece. Sometimes a needle nose pliers is useful to keep from burning your fingers! When the numbers are removed, clean the area with kerosene or WD-40, wash with soap and water, then dry.

by PHRED SEZ