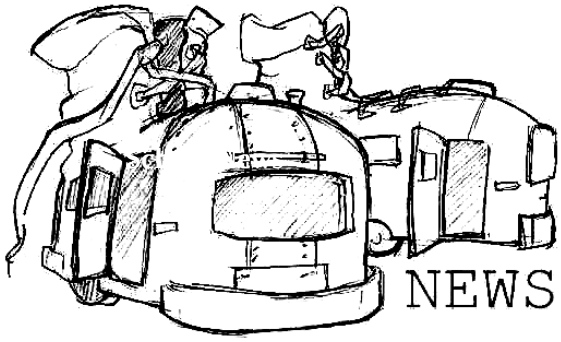
SCHU'S NEWS...



Dave Schumann, General Manager
Customer Relations Group

It is October already! Time really has been flying and you are probably getting ready to head to warmer climates or you are in the process of storing your Airstream for the winter. If Florida is not in your future and you are going to store your Airstream, make sure when you remove it from storage there will not be any surprises. Do a roof inspection to prevent any damage from leaks or down time due to damaged parts on your roof.

On Top of It

How often do you check out the top of your Airstream? One area that I believe gets the least attention on an RV is the roof; about the only time we look at the roof is when we wash and wax it or when we have a leak.

It does not matter whether you have a trailer or a motorized product, you need to keep the roof clean and inspect all seams, cables and vents on a regular basis.

Be careful

If you are thinking about getting up on the roof of your trailer or motorhome, **be safe**. If you do not feel comfortable getting up on a ladder or don't like heights, please take your Airstream to a Dealership to have the roof inspected. We certainly don't want anyone to fall and be injured.

Most Airstream motorhomes (Classics do not) have a ladder to access the roof and the roof should be able to easily support the weight of someone inspecting the roof. The Interstate Van and Westphalia do not have a ladder and there is a weight limit for the roof; but the roof can be easily inspected using a ladder and moving it around the sides of vehicle.

Airstream trailer roofs should only be accessed from the sides of the trailer (never try to get on the roof of an Airstream trailer over the front or rear ends) using a ladder. You can walk on the roof if you are careful to walk on the roof bows (you will be able to see rivets going from side to side, this is where the roof bows run).

If you will be working in one area for a while you may want to use a 3ft.x 3ft. piece of ¼' luaun to help support your weight and some soft towels to put under luaun to keep from scratching the finish.

What should I check for?

1. You would want to make sure the roof is clean, so you can get a good look at all areas of the roof. Also keeping the roof clean can reduce the black streaks that we frequently see running down the side walls of RVs.

2. You would also want to check the roof surface whether it is aluminum (trailers and Classic motorhomes) metal (Interstate Vans) or fiberglass (Motorhomes and the Base Camp) for dents, cracks or holes.

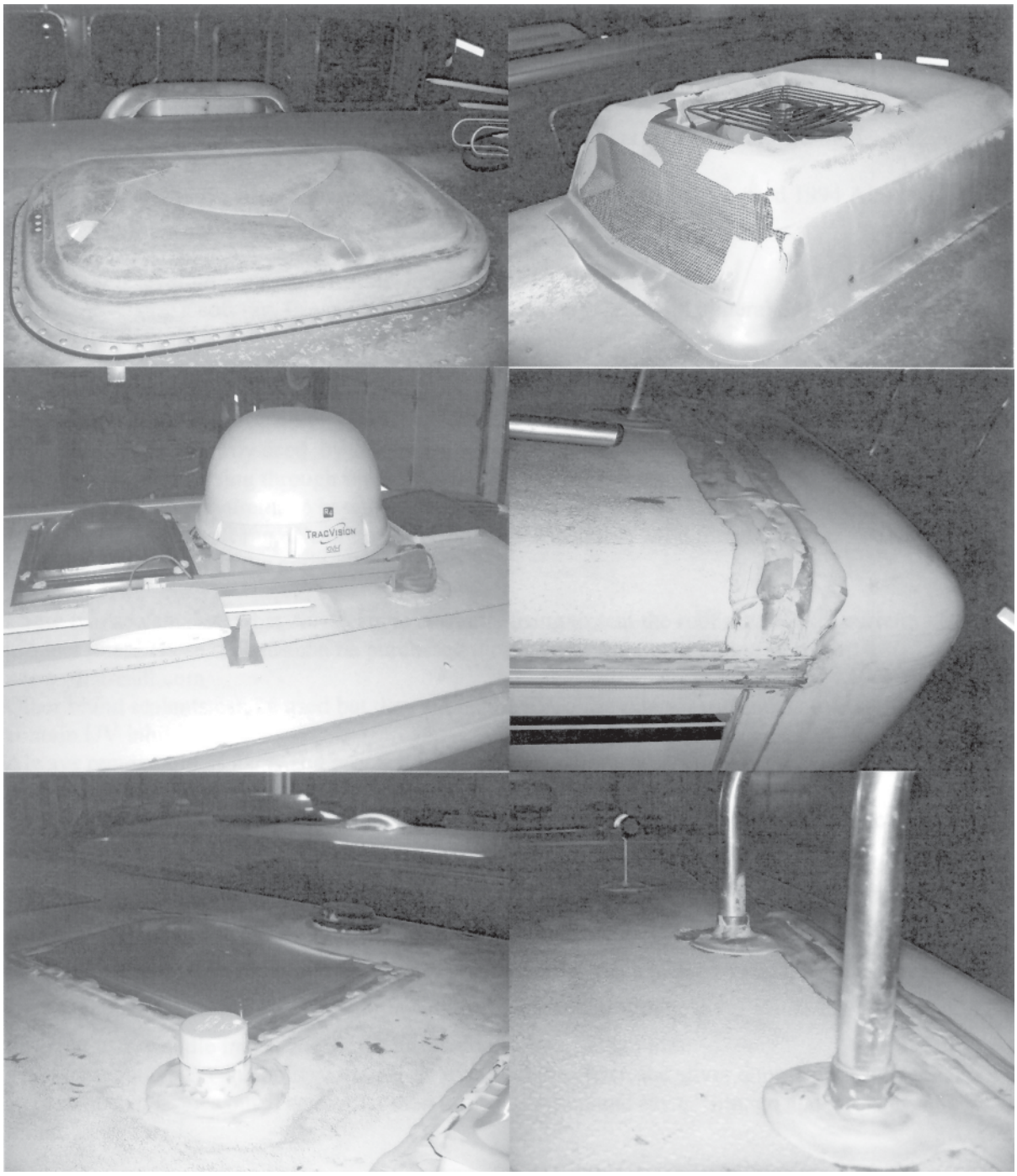
continued

3. Check AC shrouds, vent caps and skylights for damage or cracks.

4. Inspect TV ant., radio ant and solar panel cables and connections.

5. Inspect the sealant around all vents, skylights, refrigerator vents, tank vent covers, roof racks, awning rails or any cables were they go through the roof for any cracking or separation.

6. You may also want to make sure that no critters have taken up residence in any vents or covers.



What should I use if I find a loose rivet?
The original buck rivet can be drilled out and a replacement Olympic Rivet can be installed.

What should I do if I find a crack in my fiberglass motorhome roof?
There are fiberglass repair kits that can be used to repair small cracks or holes. You can also cover small cracks or holes using exterior sealer with a UV inhibitor.
Eternabond also makes a tape product that can be easily applied to permanently seal a hole or crack.
www.eternabond.com

What if I need a new vent cover or other parts to update my roof?
Contact your Airstream Dealer. A dealer locator can be found at www.Airstream.com

What Sealers should I use?
Acryl-R Self Leveling Seam Sealer
Comes in Aluminum and White for different applications
PN-**28430w-01 grey** is currently used by Airstream on segment seams, clearance lights, beltline, rub rail doors and Classic style trailer windows
PN-**28430w-04 white** is used on motorhome roof seams and vents can be used 1994 Airstream trailers with white aluminum roof.
PN-**28430w-02** is the applicator to apply sealer
Sealer is self leveling , remains flexible and contains UV inhibitors.
Clean up—Using a soft rag, Clean up with isopropyl Alcohol or Mild mineral Spirits. Always wipe in the direction of the grain

Sikaflex 721 -Caulking
PN-**365293-01 White**
Sikaflex 721 Is currently used by Airstream to seal around skylights, roof vents, antennas, awning rails, wires going through the roof and solar panel brackets.
Sikaflex 721 is a polyurethane based sealant, it remains flexible and contains UV inhibitors.
Clean up—Using a soft rag, Clean up with isopropyl Alcohol or Mild mineral Spirits. Always wipe in the direction of the grain
These two sealants are what Airstream is currently using to seal the roof areas on all current product lines. These sealants can be purchased through our Airstream online store. www.airstream.com
Other brand sealants can be used but they should be listed for exterior use and state that they contain UV inhibitors.
Always remove old sealants and properly clean surface before applying new sealants, install per manufacturers instructions.
Roof inspection and routine maintenance can keep your Airstream trouble free and reduce costly repairs.

How do they do that?
An Amish woman and her son are walking through a mall for the first time, totally stunned by everything they see. They are especially fascinated by two silver walls which slide together and then apart. They both walk up closer to the sliding silver walls. They see a fat, little old man waddle inside and watch as the doors close behind him.
The mother and son can't believe their eyes when minutes later, the silver doors open and a tall, well-built stud strides out. The mother then turns to the son and says, "Son, go and get your father."

If you have a topic for this column, please send your suggestions to:
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If your topic is published, you will receive a "Schu's News" t-shirt!