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Hello again, It is hard to believe that it is November already...amazing. Customers continue to call with some great questions. I believe in sharing so, here we go.

Question

I recently bought a used 34' Airstream travel trailer that has the Ultra 5000 Power Twin stabilizer jacks and was wondering if there was a maximum amount that these stabilizer jacks should be extended for prolonged stays at campsites. They seem to get a bit wobbly when close to fully extended. I am also wondering if there is a maximum recommended extension of the tongue jack for the same situation.

The site that I am currently staying in has a bit of slope to it, front to back, so that the front jacks are extended quite a bit more than the rear. It's not a huge slope, maybe 12"/18" over the distance between the stabilizer jacks.

The trailer wheels are chocked but just with wood blocks. There is consequently a noticeable fore/aft movement of the trailer when moving around inside. And when outside the trailer and pushing on it to rock it fore-aft, you can see that the trailer rocks on the front stabilizer jacks as well as the tongue jack. It's not too much but enough to be a little uncomfortable when inside, as well as for my well being.

Suggestions

First, whenever possible set up on a level area. Obviously, this is not always possible, so we may have to use leveling blocks (under wheels, one side or both, and under hitch jack) to help get the trailer level.

The hitch jack and the stabilizer jacks have an extension range of 18". The more the stabilizers and hitch jack are extended the more the trailer is prone to move. So it may be necessary to put blocks under them as needed to decrease the extension range.

Second, it is important that you install wheel chocks to keep wheels from moving, I suggest using a scissor type wheel chock (between wheels) if a double axle trailer. They also sell plastic type chocks that you pull over and the wheel fits into it matching wheel contour. Wood blocks in front and behind wheel can allow too much movement for extended stays.

Take away: Level ground is always best and wheels need to be secured in place. Never extend stabilizer and jack any farther than necessary. Remember when using the stabilizers on your Airstream be sure to check the fit of your main door before and after extending stabilizers, you can actually affect the fit of the main door if you don't level side to side and front to back.

Speaking of stabilizers, here is some info on the electric powered stabilizer jacks we have been using on Limited Trailers for over 15 years.

The Ultra 5000 Power Twin Stabilizer

Airstream uses the Ultra 5000 Power Twin manufactured by Ultra Fab Products located in Elkhart, Indiana.

The Ultra 500 Power Twin is designed for leveling and stabilizing of your Airstream only. These stabilizers are not intended to raise the trailer off of the ground to change your tires; never extend them more than necessary.

Taking Care of Your Stabilizers

Your Power Twin leveling system is relatively maintenance free, but there are several ways to help keep them operating trouble free.

Keep the leveler free of excess dirt and road chemicals by periodically hosing off stabilizer and spraying entire system (including the jack screw assembly) with a light coat of WD40 or similar product (do not use heavy grease or lubricant that will hold dirt).



Ultra 5000 Power Twin

Lubrication

The motor gear assembly should be re-greased periodically through the grease fitting (on newer models) which is located on the clutch gear housing at the motor assembly. Fill the gear cavity with a heat resistant grease (the same type used to lube cars) until the grease just begins to flow out of the grease cavity relief indicator hole. Wipe off excess grease.

Never use pneumatic-powered lube equipment as it can damage the leveler unit. Use hand operated grease gun only.

Maintenance

Also, you may want to check to make sure all bolts are tight on footpads or where stabilizers are attached to frame, frequent use can cause bolts and nuts to loosen.

You may want to also consider carrying some extra **30 amp slow blow fuses** with you when traveling. (If you operate both leveling switches at the same time or when actually lifting your trailer, you may overload the motor causing the fuse to fail). The fuse holder is located next to the operating switches.

Always make sure you know where your emergency hand crank is, so you are not left high and dry if the jack motor should fail to operate.

Your leveling system **should never be totally immersed in water** and always remember to retract system before moving your trailer.

Winterizing question

How should I get my motorhome ready for storing this winter, do I just drain the water and add anti-freeze to the system?

Normally when we use the term "winterizing" we think of the water system and the use of anti-freeze. Yes you will definitely need to take care of your water system. In addition we really need to understand that there are other areas that need some preparation for winter; I have listed a few areas you won't want to forget.

Some Winterizing/Storage suggestions for Motorized products

- Wash and wax your motorhome (especially the roof area) before storing; store inside when possible. Not only do you want your Airstream clean, this will also give you a chance to see if anything needs attention or possibly leaking before you put in storage.
- Clean the awning and make sure it is dry before you roll it up.
- Park the vehicle in the spot it will remain throughout the winter. You don't want to park in a wooded area or one with a lot of weeds or tall grass if possible as you will increase the chance of winter visitors.
- Park MH on concrete or graveled area (wood planks can be used) when possible to protect tires from moisture. Fill tires to maximum air pressure. Clean tire side walls and wheels and apply a protectant. Cover tires to protect from UV Rays.
- Remove and store the batteries. (Keep batteries fully charged). Coat chassis and coach battery terminals with a corrosion protectant.
- If you may be driving the vehicle during the winter and leaving the battery in your MH, check fluid levels and charge monthly. **Remember on motorized Airstreams you will have chassis batteries as well as house batteries!!**
- Add Sta-bil fuel treatment to the gas tank or diesel stabilizer to the diesel fuel to help prevent the fuel from gumming and to disperse moisture, then run engine 5 -10 minutes. Change the oil and filters in engine or generator if it is old, and check the antifreeze level.
- Make sure you have windshield washer fluid that will not freeze.
- Cover engine and generator exhaust pipes with aluminum foil. Helps control moisture and keeps critters out.
- Turn off the all switches, main 110 v. breakers and gas supply valves.
- Remove all food and clothing, clean stove and cupboards. We don't want to make it to comfortable for any critters looking for a winter home.
- Clean and dry out refrigerator and add box of baking soda to prevent any odors. Leave drawers and cabinet doors open to help prevent moisture build up.
- Lubricate door locks and hinges, to prevent sticking or corroding while stored.
- Before storing your Airstream, repair any items that need attention or at least make a list of items needing attention and put where you can follow up later. You don't want to remember that something needed repaired when you are sitting along the road somewhere.

Hopefully, the above list will give you some understanding as to some additional areas that will need attention beyond your water system. This is not a complete list but a good start; you will develop your own personalized checklist as you go.

Answer for the Ages

A reporter was interviewing a 104 year-old woman: "And what do you think is the best thing about being 104?" She simply replied, "No peer pressure."

Have a great month and we will see you on down the road!