Hello from Ohio!

Since the last month's edition of Schu's News I had the opportunity to attend an Airstream get together in Sarasota, Florida. It was a WARM week with the opportunity to visit many old friends and meet many new and first time Airstreamers. Once again we had the opportunity to share some information with some seminars and field lots of questions. I really enjoy hearing your suggestions and comments concerning our products and provide topics for future articles. If I have forgotten to get back with someone or provide some requested information please let me know. 937-596-6111

Dave Schumann, General Manager
Customer Relations Group

De-Winterizing your Airstream

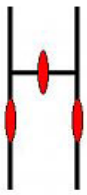
You are planning your first trip of the spring, so how do you make sure your Airstream is ready?

The process will vary somewhat depending on how you went about getting it ready for winter. You are going to want to check more than just the plumbing system. Here are some things to consider:

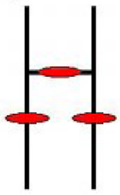
1. If you have removed the batteries, you will want to make sure they have been charged and reinstalled.
2. Plug your Airstream into 110 volt so you will be able to power up the system to operate lights, control panel and appliances etc.
   - Check power cord and ends
3. Get plumbing system ready - the plan is to run fresh water through all pipes, faucets, water heater and into the gray & black tanks.
   - Make sure all low point drain valves are closed.
   - If your system has a bypass set up for the water heater it should have been put in the bypass mode to winterize; set the valve positions to the normal operating mode.

Valves should be set to one of the following two configurations.

Summer setting



Winter setting



- If you have a filter under galley, reinstall or replace with a new one.
- If you have loosened any hoses at pump or the pump guard last fall, make sure they have been reinstalled and tightened.
- Make sure water heater drain plug is in place and pop off valve is closed.
- Hook hose to the city water connection and turn on water.
- Check under trailer for any water that may be coming out (for leaks or valve not closed).
- Open the faucet in the galley and run the water until you see clear water (if you have used anti-freeze in the system vs. air to winterize) and sputtering stops (air in lines). Do the same for the bath faucets, shower and toilet.
- Turn off water and relieve system pressure by opening a faucet; then remove the drain plug at the water heater and close the faucet, turn water back on and flush for a minute to help clean it out. Then turn off water and let water drain for 30 seconds and reinstall plug; this will put an air pocket at top of water heater so pop off valve operates properly.
- Now with sewer cap on and water in black and gray tank verify dump valve operation. Check to see if sewer cap seal is leaking. (Have a bucket available when you remove sewer cap).
- Make sure fresh tank drain valve operates and is closed, then fill the fresh water tank half full- then add a ¾ cup of bleach or some bleach tablets then fill tank. (You may want to drive around the block to agitate mixture). Let stand for 3-4 hours then flush with fresh water.

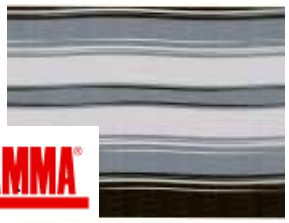
4. Make sure propane tanks are full.
5. Check operation of appliances
   - Before lighting the refrigerator, water heater or furnace, you will want to make sure the exterior vents and burner tubes are free from bugs, nests or other debris. Compressed air or specific cleaning brushes can aid the process.
   - Check burners on stove top - clean and make sure burners and gas tubes are in place.

- Your propane system will have air in the lines when you first turn the gas bottles on, the best place to start when removing air from the lines is the stove top. Turn on burner and use igniter.

6. Check exterior for damage that may have happened over winter, roof, AC shroud, vents and other covers.
   - If there are any bird droppings or tree sap you will want to get them removed and apply a good coat of wax.
7. Verify operation of all vents and windows - clean and lubricate as necessary.
8. Check tire pressures, including spare.
9. How old are the tires? Check manufacturing dates on the tires.
10. Clean and lubricate the hitch ball.
11. Check safety chains and brake away cable.
12. Lights and brakes tested and working properly.
13. Check seven way cord for cracks in the plug and cord.
14. Preventive maintenance list?
    - Anything leftover from last fall that you said you would take care of later? Bearings, brakes, spare key, spare fuses or light bulbs?

While this is not a complete list, it will definitely be a good start for when warm weather finally gets here.

Suggestions for maintaining the fabric on your Fiamma awning on the Interstate van



Fiamma awning fabrics are made with PVC and polyester layers and can be affected by certain weather conditions.

For example if you close an awning which has been exposed to the hot sun at very high temperatures for a long time, wrinkles could appear in the fabric.

In very low temperature, the fabric becomes less pliable and there could be a risk of cracking.

Here is a list of some suggestions for maintaining your Fiamma awning fabric:

1. Open and close the awning in normal conditions and temperatures making sure the fabric has no sharp objects on it and is clean.
2. When closing the awning after a long period in the hot sun and at very high temperatures, wrinkles could appear and could prevent the awning from closing completely.
   If this happens the awning is still secure and is not compromised, as the security winch will prevent accidental opening. If wrinkles appear, re-open the awning and leave in the sun for a few hours and they will disappear. Then of course you need to re-close the awning after wrinkles are gone.
3. Residual moisture can cause spots on the fabric. If the awning has to be closed when the fabric is damp we suggest you open it again as soon as possible to dry.
4. We suggest you avoid the using of the awning below freezing 0° F.
5. When closing and opening the awning, please pay attention. We suggest you to open the awning for about 20 inches, then let the legs out in order to support the front bar during the position of maximum extension.
6. Most of dirt seen on the fabric will be superficial and can be cleaned using water and a cloth. Stubborn marks can be removed using a light detergent.

Please do not use aggressive chemical substances and do not use high pressure cleaning washing equipment.

Dinner and a Friend

Husband: Honey, I invited a friend home for dinner.
Wife: What? Are you crazy? The house is a mess, all the dishes are dirty, and I can't cook a meal.
Husband: I know all that.
Wife: Then why did you invite the friend?
Husband: Because the poor fellow is thinking about getting married.

Thunder and Lightning

Light travels faster than sound. This is why some people appear bright until you hear them speak.

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