Schu's News

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Ah yes, the start of another month. It was great to see everyone who attended the Florida State Rally. I want to thank everyone that stopped by and visited us at the Airstream Store while at the Rally, great support!

One thing that came up at the Rally was a rash of furnace issues due to the cooler temperatures. There were various causes for the furnace problems, they stemmed from low LP pressure, loose wires to mud daubers and spiders in the furnace. The key to preventing problems is a monthly inspection of furnace openings and the cycling of your furnace, it is something we often overlook until needed.

Windows sticking

Another item that came up at the rally was the question of window gaskets sticking and what can I do to prevent this from happening. Several months of having your windows in the closed and locked position can lead to dirt and the resins from the rubber building up around the edge of the glass causing the glass to stick to the rubber.

When trying to open a window that is stuck, never pry around the edge of the window.

To prevent window gaskets from sticking, wash the window gasket with dishwasher soap to remove the dirt and resins, once clean and dry, apply a thin coat of Vaseline to the rubber gasket. This when performed on a regular basis should solve the problem.

Emergency Repairs

Ever have a toilet stool seal fail and let foul odors into to your rig? Here is a quick fix that will still let you use your RV until you can make the necessary repairs. A simple party balloon filled with water and with the end tied off will fit down in the round lower portion of the stool and seal off fumes from entering. If you must use stool remove balloon and replace when finished. Balloons are great for parties too!

A Hot Idea

Ever have to battle with a 10' sewer hose to get the end to slip over the sewer elbow fitting? Unless you want to practice wrestling alligators try this.

To start, slip the hose clamp loosely over the end of the hose approximately six inches from the end. Then simply soak the end of the hose in a bucket of hot water for a few minutes to soften and slip over the elbow and tighten the clamp. Putting the elbow in a Ziploc bag and putting it in the freezer will cause the elbow to contract also making it easier to slide the hose on to the elbow.

Do you have a Screw Loose?

There are many sheet metal screws used to secure equipment in your Airstream. Occasionally, whether from over tightening or from road vibrations, the screw holes can be come enlarged. You can buy larger diameter screws or you may want to try some quick repairs if you are not close to a hardware store. You can take some small strands from braided electrical wire and wrap tightly around the threads of the screw and when reinstalled the screw should fit snuggly in the hole.

If you are in need of some thing bigger and are old enough to remember Bobby- Pins, insert one side of a pin in the enlarged hole and re-install screw, when screw is tight wiggle pin back and forth to break off.

If you have a screw hole that has become enlarged in a wood frame or panel, you can insert a wood toothpick or wood matchstick and some Elmer's Glue in the hole and re-install the screw.

Did you know?

That an Airstream was used in the 1955 "Doomtown, USA" Civil Defense Test in Nevada. The trailer had already traveled 60,000 miles on the road in Canada, Alaska and Mexico. It was placed 10500 feet from "Ground Zero" and subjected to an explosive force from an A-Bomb Device equivalent to 40000 tons of TNT.

When the dust had settled, the Airstream was found to be as roadworthy as ever. Total damage was two broken windows and a small dent in a rear panel; after minor repairs it was back on the road.

That in 1952 Airstream introduced the revolutionary stretched formed and work- hardened bows for greater strength and lower weight in its framing members.

That in 1953 Wally Byam built the world's first all plastic trailer. It was an expensive experiment, naturally, because the price of plastic was not cheap it did not lend itself to mass production. Innovation is still a key component of Airstreams today.

I hope you have a great month and I hope to see you on down the road!

Information from Airstream archives and The Ten Minute Tech, TL.