



**Dave Schumann, General Manager  
Customer Relations Group**

As I am working on this article, it is September the 1st and the temperature this morning was 44 degrees. In our area it has been a cool summer; maybe this fall will be warm. It really doesn't seem like it should be October already.

It seems like requests for information come in spurts in regards to topics; we have been receiving numerous requests recently concerning cleaning instructions and odors in their Airstreams.

One question that has been asked is how do I keep all the stainless in my Airstream looking good? Whether it the kitchen sink, microwave or the doors on your refrigerator, finger prints and smudges will happen and will need to be cleaned up.

My wife has been successful in applying 100% white vinegar with a micro fiber towel to the stainless steel surface. Once the stainless has been thoroughly wiped down with the vinegar she will then apply olive oil to a micro fiber towel (micro fiber is soft so it will reduce the chance of scratching the stainless) and wipe down the stainless steel with it. This will restore the new look to your stainless steel and help resist future smudges.

If this doesn't work for you at least you will have everything out so you can make a good salad!

For the last several years the interiors of the Airstream trailers have been built with the shiny aluminum interiors, so the question of how to keep it clean is often asked.

After a while a film can develop on the interior skin and there may be smudges or finger prints that need to be cleaned. What can we use to clean the aluminum?

### **Pledge –Clean and shine**

Whether it is cleaning a trailer for an up coming show or getting a unit cleaned up for a customer in the Service Department, Pledge will easily clean smudges and film build up from your aluminum interior skin. Just spray it on and then wipe off, works great on Stainless Steel, Metal & Chrome, and is excellent for cleaning metal surfaces quickly.



### **Some additional benefits:**

- Help prevent dust from flying into the air when you clean.
- Trap and remove dust and the dust mite allergens and pet dander found in dust.
- Attract and pick up dust so you don't shift it from place to place while you clean.
- Has a nice Orange smell

It should be available at most Wal-Mart and Lowes stores.

### **Odors:**

#### **How can I remove odors from my Airstream?**

First you would want to try to determine the source of the smell. Is it a smell caused from cooking, musty refrigerator, clothing or shower area? Or did a rodent pick your Airstream as a final resting place.

## Airstream

Odors can come from different sources so there may be several possible solutions for reducing or eliminating the smells.

- Sewer smells - All drains have a trap that is placed between the tanks and your RV. This trap should always be filled with water, because this water acts as an odor barrier between the RV and tank systems. If the trap dries out, sewer & other odors are allowed to enter the RV. Many times, simply pouring water into a little used drain (especially if it has been in storage), will recharge the trap with water and effectively restore the odor barrier.
- Toilet seal—a leaky toilet seal can let odors into your RV—if the toilet does not hold water, your seal may need replaced or cleaned.
- Mildew in shower and bath area—Wipe down shower and bath areas after showering.
- Ventilate while cooking: to remove heat, moisture and odors.
- If your Airstream has been in storage (closed up and subjected to high temperatures, extreme heat can cause out gassing of building materials) open windows and turn on ceiling fans to circulate air.
- Find the source of the odor and eliminate it, such as: Food left in cabinets, a dead mouse, laundry (wet towels or clothing). You will need to thoroughly clean the area with a disinfectant and then work on eliminating the odor.

### What can I use to help remove odors?

#### Coffee grounds

- Either freshly ground coffee or (dried out) used coffee grounds will work, just place in a pie pan and sit in the area of the odor, such as a cabinet, closet or on your kitchen counter. The coffee grounds will absorb the odors; this will also work to remove smells from refrigerators.

#### Vinegar

- 100% White Vinegar—Just pour some in a bowl, set it in the middle of the room, it's going to absorb all the odors in the room.
- You can also dilute white vinegar in water and put in a spray bottle, use to wipe down walls and surfaces to disinfect and help eliminate sources

#### Baking soda

- A box of Arm and Hammer baking soda in the fridge or cabinet will help absorb odors
- Also you can sprinkle baking soda on carpets to remove odors, just let set and vacuum later to remove the baking soda along with the odors.

I am sure that most of these suggestions are not new to most of you but since they are topics of frequent calls I thought I would review them.

#### Tires

Airstream Service Department has two new additions to its line up of tires. We now have in addition to the Goodyear Marathon tire, TowMax ST225/75 R15 Load Range "E" tires available (requires a 2830# rated wheel) and Goodyear Wrangler LT 225/75 R16 tire and wheel assembly, this is a 16" tire & wheel.

#### What did you say?

Customer: "These 60 watt light bulbs must be defective. This is the third one I've had to purchase this month."

Clerk (looking offended): I don't think so, ma'am. These are one of our best sellers."

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

*If you have a topic for this column, please send your suggestions to:  
Dave Schumann, Airstream, Inc., 419 W. Pike Street, Jackson Center, OH 45334*

*If your topic is published, you will receive a "Schu's News" t-shirt!*