Dave Schumann, General Manager

Customer Relations Group

AIR CONDITIONING, a Hot Topic:

This time of the year a high volume of the calls coming into Customer Support pertain to air conditioning and how can they get them to cool more effectively.

The air coming out of the air conditioner will blow 18 to 20 degrees cooler than it draws in if operating properly. If the air temperature is 100 degrees at the outside of the AC, the best your air conditioner can do at the interior is probably 80 degrees in the best of circumstances. There are things that you can do to help your AC and improve cooling.

1. Clean your air filters weekly or sooner if needed. Be sure to change or wash the filter in your unit. If it has a washable, reusable foam filter, then remove it and wash it, allowing it to air dry before reinstalling. The accumulation of dirt and dust in the filters will slow down the flow of air and could cause the unit to freeze up.

If you are having a problem with your AC freezing up, turn the fan speed selector to high when running in the AC Cool mode. This will move air through the evaporator unit faster and will help keep it from freezing up. Also excess moisture from cooking or showering will also add to the problem, use your range exhaust and shower exhaust to reduce moisture in your Airstream.

2. Perform preventive maintenance as environmental conditions require, clean the coils under the outside cover and straighten fins and make sure drain holes are open at base of AC. Plugged coils will restrict the flow of warm air out of the Air Conditioner and can reduce cooling.

3. Pull down your shades, close curtains, and add insulation to your windows or skylights when in extremely hot and sunny areas. Start the cooling process early in the day to get a head start on the heat. Make sure any cabinets and closets are closed reducing area needing to be cooled and you may want to also consider closing off the portion of the trailer you are not using during the day such as the bedroom or bathroom. Retract slides to minimize the space needed to air condition.

4. Park in the shade when possible. Shade from a tree will make a significant difference in air temperature at the exterior of the AC, also, when possible, try to park on a stoned or gravel area instead of blacktop which can generate 30 to 40 degree higher temperatures.

5. Use Patio awnings and window awnings when weather permits to help provide shade for your windows and the side of Airstream.

6. Cook outdoors when possible to keep from creating additional heat and moisture inside of the trailer.

Excess moisture and high humidity conditions will reduce the effectiveness of your A.C. The temperature drop across the coils at 80% humidity will be about 12 to 16 degrees, at 20 % humidity the temperature drop will be 23 to 26 degrees. You're Air Conditioner will perform better in lower humidity levels.

7. Monitor your AC voltage, the minimum is 107 volts, the maximum is 130 volts. Low voltage for an RV Air Conditioner can spell trouble. Air conditioners require a certain amount of power (watts) to operate.

If the line voltage goes down, in order to meet that needed amount of energy, the air conditioner will simply draw more current (amps). If the need for current exceeds the capacity of the circuit breaker, the breaker will be tripped and need reset.

BB September 2010 .indd 39 8/24/2010 11:26:49 AM

Voltage drop is a common problem when it is hot and you are at a campground with fellow RVers all trying to stay cool by running their AC's. Repeatedly resetting the breaker will weaken the breaker and can lead to early failure. A weak breaker can also reduce the power to your AC and other appliances, the more a breaker is tripped the weaker it will become and can reduce the current flow.

8. It is not recommended using an extension cord when operating your air conditioner. The long length of extension cords and wire size smaller than 10 gauge can lead to voltage drop and the heat generated could also damage the extension cord.

There are probably other suggestions (move to a cooler climate) that may help but these suggestions should help in "stay'in cool".

Airstream Classic Trailer Recall

NHTSA Recall No. 10V-344
Transport Canada Recall No. 10-239

Airstream is recalling certain model year 2005-2009 classic travel trailers manufactured from March 2005 through April 2009 and equipped with hydraulic brake controller manufactured by Active Technologies. It is possible that the brake actuator can fail unexpectedly causing the brakes on the trailer to lock up or to fail completely. The locking of the brakes or brake failure could result in a loss of vehicle control that could result in a crash and possible serious injury. Dealers will inspect the brake actuator and if found to be defective it will be replaced free of charge. The recall is expected to begin during August 2010. Owners may contact Airstream at 1-937-596-6111 concerning the recall.

Acti-Brake Actuator- Version II

He's turned his life around. He used to be depressed and miserable. Now he's miserable and depressed.
~Harry Kalas, on Garry Maddox, 1981

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!

Airstream Dealer Update
937-596-6111

New Dealer

KCMER Investments, Inc.
dba: Mercedes Benz of Kansas City
13851 Madison Ave.
Kansas City, MO 64145
Ph. 816-943-7000

Bay State Ford, Inc.
dba: Airstream of New England
1776 Washington St.
Stoughton, MA 02072
Ph. 781-341-3500

Jack Sisemore Traveland, L.P.
4341 Canyon Dr.
Amarillo, TX 79110
Ph. 806-358-4891

Deleted Dealers

Dillon's RV City
9452 E. Apache Trail (Sales)
Mesa, AZ 85207
Ph. 480-354-5595

Airstream of Arkansas, Inc.
3111 E. Race
Searcy, AR 72143
Ph. 501-279-3320

Mount Comfort RV LLC
5935 W. 225 N.
Greenfield, IN 46140
Ph. 317-898-6676

BB September 2010 .indd 40 8/24/2010 11:27:07 AM