

LUBRICATION & MAINTENANCE

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BRASS VALVE & FITTINGS



Your Airstream is without a doubt the finest engineered travel trailer ever to be mass-produced. Every design feature and component has been chosen with the thought in mind of giving you thousands of miles of trouble-free

operation. By adhering to the following minimum maintenance schedule and the additional exterior and interior maintenance suggestions you will enjoy all of the pleasure you dream of from your trailer . . . and more.

### LUBRICATION & MAINTENANCE

ITEM	Every	Every	Every	PROCEDURE
	1,000 miles or 30 days	5,000 miles or 90 days	10,000 miles or 6 months	
Battery	X			Check water level — fill with distilled water only.
Smoke Hood	X			Clean fan blades and wash filter.
Hitch Ball Latch	X			Lubricate with engine motor oil.
Hitch Jack	X			Lubricate with light household oil (put oil can spout up under handle and allow oil to run down post).
7-way Plugs & Receptacle		X		Clean contacts and coat with "SPRA-KLEEN."
LPG Hold Down Knob	X			Lubricate with light household oil.
Entrance Door Hinge	X			Lubricate with light household oil.
Roof Vent Elevator Screws	X			Lubricate with light household oil.
All Exterior Door Locks	X			Lubricate by shooting in dry graphite.
Strike pocket on Main Door	X			Coat with paraffin.
Wheel Bearings			X	Clean, repack, and adjust.
Brakes			X	Inspect and adjust.
Tires	X			Check for foreign objects. Air pressure — page 102.
Tires		X		Cross-switch.
Water Pump		X		Check belt for wear and proper tension.
Wheel Lug Nuts		X*		Check for tightness.
Retracting Step		X		Lubricate moving parts.
Window Seals/Door Seals		X		Clean with mild detergent & coat with "Slipicone."

\*NOTE: On new trailers check lug nuts every 200 miles for the first 1,000 miles.



**SEASONAL CHECK-UPS.**

Every fall and winter, and after any long storage, all of the gas appliances should be checked, cleaned and adjusted to insure safe and care-free operation. See the chapter on Appliances in this manual for maintenance procedures or have your Airstream dealer perform this "preventative maintenance" for you.

**EXTERIOR MAINTENANCE.****ALUMINUM BODY.**

Your Airstream has been protected by an acrylic lacquer finish applied at the factory. It will have on it an impervious film which should afford years of satisfactory service. As with any high quality finish, however, damage may occur if strong solvents or abrasive cleaners are used to remove road stains such as asphalt or insects. If the use of solvents is necessary to remove these materials, the areas affected should be wiped with a good grade lacquer thinner and touched up with a spray can of clear acrylic lacquer (available at Wally Byam Stores). If through the years the protective lacquer film is removed in extensive areas due to abrasion or highly corrosive atmosphere, a non-uniform appearance may result due to the differential oxidation of the underlying aluminum. Under these circumstances it is best to remove all lacquer with a good grade lacquer solvent and have your trailer re-coated or polish the entire trailer as described in the following paragraphs.

To keep your Airstream looking like new, it is important to keep the aluminum surface clean. Oils, greases, dust and dirt can be removed by washing with any mild non-abrasive soap or detergent such as those found around the house or

those recommended for washing automotive finishes. (Automatic dishwasher detergents generally are too strong and should not be used.) Under no circumstances should you attempt to use any of the acid etch cleaners that are available on the market as trailer cleaners. These are very dangerous for an amateur to use and, unless carefully handled, can be harmful to both the user and the trailer.

Cleaning solutions are best applied with a large sponge, soft cotton cloth or with a soft-to-medium bristle brush for stubborn spots. Cleaning should be followed by rinsing with clear water, taking care to rinse all detergents from cracks, grooves and crevices. Best results will be obtained by drying the surface with a chamois or soft cloth to prevent spotting or streaking. Always be careful to clean your Airstream in the shade or on a cloudy day and when the aluminum skin is cool.

After cleaning and drying, a good grade of non-abrasive automotive paste or liquid will greatly increase the life of the finish, maintain a uniform overall appearance, protect the finish from minor scratches and abrasions, and make later cleaning and maintenance easier.

Wax coatings should normally be applied every three to six months. They are best applied by hand but a soft, light-pressure mechanical buffer can be used if great caution is taken. Even non-abrasive waxes may cause surface marks if heavily buffed with high-pressure mechanical buffing equipment. The life of the wax coating is dependent on the degree and severity of exposure and maintenance between waxings. To get the longest life from wax coatings, excess grime and soil should be washed as often as needed with clean, cool water and the surface dried with a damp chamois or cloth. A protective wax coating is particularly important in coastal localities where the finish is exposed

to salt air, and in industrial areas where the finish is exposed to industrial waste fallout.

It is important to remove sap, seeds, gum, resin, etc., as soon as possible after they appear by washing and re-waxing. Sunlight and time will bake harden these materials so they may become ingrained into the actual finish of the aluminum, making them almost impossible to remove without heavy buffing.

If your trailer becomes exposed to unusually severe and corrosive atmospheric or service conditions, or has received improper or little maintenance, the acrylic coating may be destroyed and the aluminum may oxidize. This oxidation appears either visibly, as a white powder in very small granules, or can be felt as a roughness on the surface. To clean your Airstream after oxidation has taken place, the following procedure is recommended:

1. Wash your trailer with a good detergent using moderately hot water. Remove all dirt, mud and as much of the road asphalt as possible. If asphalt remains on the trailer after washing, use a small amount of kerosene on a rag and wipe the spots individually, being careful not to scratch the aluminum.
2. Remove all traces of acrylic coating with a good grade lacquer solvent.
3. Use a ready made aluminum cleaning preparation such as those designed for use on aircraft. One that has been found to be satisfactory is Met-All, available in Wally Byam Stores. Use a fairly large, soft cloth with some Met-All and rub lengthwise on the trailer or parallel with the grain of the aluminum (you will be able to determine the grain of the aluminum by looking closely at each panel). Do one complete sheet or section at a time.

4. Continue to rub the Met-All paste on the sheet after it has picked up a black color, which indicates that the coating of oxidated aluminum is being removed. Do not allow the rag to become caked or hard. Use either a clean rag or keep turning the rag as long as it is usable. When a cake of oxidized aluminum paste develops on your rag it is possible, with continued rubbing, to scratch the metal surface.
5. After completing the instructions under paragraph 4, use a soft, clean cloth that has been dusted with ordinary white wheat flour and buff off by hand the excess material that has been left on the sheet. (For extremely tough jobs, it may be necessary to do a complete job twice, except that the second time it is not necessary to wash the trailer with detergent.)
6. The use of a buffer is not recommended except in the hands of a thoroughly experienced person (if not expertly used, the buffer will leave a pattern on the aluminum surface).

Glass Wax (made by Johnson) has been found to be very useful in removing the last marks made in rubbing off the oxidized aluminum. After it is thoroughly clean, the entire surface should be re-waxed. Do not use Glass Wax if you plan to re-coat your Airstream with the clear acrylic lacquer.

#### **CHASSIS AND HARDWARE.**

The entire chassis has been painted with a high quality black chassis paint and the visible portions have been painted with an aluminum lacquer. To keep your trailer looking new it is recommended that the exposed portions of the chassis, bumper, gas bottles, etc., be repainted periodically with aluminum lacquer. These parts can be



brush painted if desired but a more professional appearance can be had by using a spray can (available through Wally Byam Stores). It is also a good idea to repaint the vent covers for the galley exhaust fan, the refrigerator and the plumbing vents at the same time. If your trailer is equipped with air conditioning, the shroud over the air conditioner should also be painted.

Check the 7-way electrical connector for dirt and corrosion. Periodically, apply some "SPRA-KLEEN" to keep the contacts clean. When not using the trailer, it is a good idea to put a cover over the plug to keep out foreign matter.

#### WINDOW MAINTENANCE.

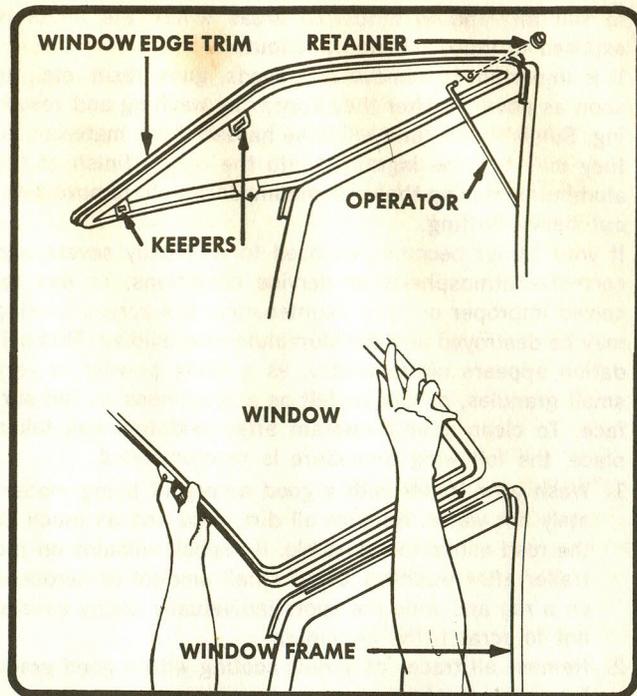
Window seals are of a material that will give good service with minimum care. Clean the seals with a damp cloth or mild detergent every 3 to 6 months. **DO NOT USE STRONG SOLVENTS** — they will damage the seals. A coat of natural silicone lubricant (slipicone) applied after the seals have dried will keep it flexible. Spread the lubricant evenly with a brush or finger working it in to the surface. The slipicone is available through Wally Byam Stores.

#### REPLACEMENT.

Should the window become broken, replacement can be ordered by part number. The number of each window is stamped on the sill, approximately 10 inches from the right hand side as seen from inside the trailer. The replacement window will have the edge trim and keepers already assembled.

#### To remove the window:

1. Open window about half-way.



2. Remove the retainer from both operator arms (see illustration).
3. While holding window open, remove operator arm ends from holes in window edge trim.
4. Rotate window upward until hinge on window drops out of hinge portion attached to window frame.
5. Clean the seals and check for damage. Cuts in the seals may allow the window to leak; damaged seals should be replaced.

### To install new window

1. Hold window in position as shown in illustration (be sure to rotate glass and frame upwards above the horizontal position) and insert hinge into window frame. Be sure window is centered in window frame. When hinge is properly located rotate window down about halfway closed. (**CAUTION:** Do not force window down — if the hinge is hooked properly, the window will swing down of its own weight).
2. Lubricate the rubber seals as described under "Window Maintenance."
3. Lubricate the hinge, using the same lubricant as used on the rubber.
4. Place outside ends of operators into holes in window edge trim and fasten retainers. Window replacement is now complete.

### INTERIOR MAINTENANCE.

The interior of your Airstream is designed to be as trouble and maintenance-free as is possible. Following these tips will help maintain the interior of your Airstream sparkling new.

### INTERIOR WALL FINISH.

The interior walls are finished in vinyl. Vinyl is best cleaned with a liberal application of suds from a mild household detergent such as Tide, with a small amount of bleach (Clorox, for example) added to the water. A damp bristle brush can be used for scrubbing to loosen and remove the soil. Then the surface should be rinsed with clear water and wiped dry.

**NOTE:** Use of kerosene, naphtha, carbon tetrachloride, lighter fluid, Energine, etc. should be avoided. They can cause damage to the vinyl. Abrasives should also be avoided, as they can wear off the print and unprotected

surfaces, and dull the lustre.

### INTERIOR WOODWORK.

The interior wood in your trailer is lacquered for greatest durability and beauty. A cloth moistened with plain water is the best cleaning agent. DO NOT use alcohol or any petroleum-base solvents; they will attack the lacquer and mar the finish.

### FLOORS.

Vinyl-asbestos floor tile should be cleaned with warm water and detergent, and coated with a good grade of clear wax such as Johnson's Paste or Vista wax. Self-polishing liquid waxes may be used, but they do not wear as well.

### DRAPES AND UPHOLSTERY.

When storing your trailer it is a good idea to protect the upholstery from fading rays of the sun by putting aluminum foil between the window and the screen. The upholstery fabrics are treated with a moisture and stain repellent and therefore most dirt and stains can be easily removed with a damp cloth. If and when they become soiled, a good quality dry cleaning type upholstery cleaner can be used. The drapes are dry cleanable.

### WORK SURFACES.

The work surfaces in your Airstream are of melamine laminate; they resist alcohol, fruit stains, scratches, acid, household alkali and heat up to 275°F. Waxing will help preserve the luster. Never use abrasive cleaners or use the surface for slicing or cutting. Protect from hot vessels.

### LAVATORY AND TUB.

The lavatory bowl, counter top and tub in your Airstream bathroom are made of a special long-wearing, light weight, high strength material. When cleaning, use soap or detergent only — never use scouring powder. Wright's Silver



Cream is an ideal cleaner for these parts.

#### **CLEANING PROCEDURES FOR STAINLESS STEEL SINKS.**

For routine cleaning of stainless steel sinks, ordinary soap or detergent and water will usually do the work. To prevent water spots and streaks, rinse sink thoroughly with warm water and wipe dry with a soft, clean cloth. Stubborn spots or stains that resist soap and water usually can be removed with a paste made of water and a mild abrasive cleaner such as Bon Ami or Ajax. When applying these abrasive cleaners, be sure to rub in the direction of the polish lines on the steel to preserve the original finish.

#### **FINGERPRINTS.**

Fingerprints are sometimes a problem on highly polished surfaces of stainless steel. They can be minimized by applying a cleaner which will leave a thin waxy film. An excellent cleaner for this purpose is the trade-marked product "Lac-O-Nu" (available through Wally Byam Stores). To use this cleaner, simply wipe on and remove excess cleaner with a soft dry cloth. After using, subsequent fingerprints will usually disappear when wiped with a soft dry cloth or with a cloth containing a little of the cleaner. If the surface is especially dirty to start with, wash first with soap or detergent and water.

#### **SCALE AND HARD WATER FILMS.**

Several types of films and scale can form on stainless steel from the use of hard water and strong detergents. They may be easy or difficult to remove, depending on the hardness of the water, type of detergent used, and length of time the film or scale has been permitted to build up. Regular cleaning at frequent intervals is the best prevention.

Heat sterilization can be done to stainless steel by filling sink with water at a temperature of 170 to 180°F. This will not injure the metal.

Certain foods and seasoning contain table salt, which in time will cause stainless steel to pit. These include ketchup, mustard and mayonnaise. Although stainless steel containers may be used for serving of such foods, where time of contact is relatively short, never use stainless steel containers for storing such foods. It is also advisable to wash deposits of these foods from stainless steel cutlery, pots and pans, before they stand too long.