

RV Consumer e-Magazine

June 2015

Volume 5

Issue 6



DISCOVER

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THE RV DIY PROJECT



Must Read: New Trailer Sway Product

Plus: Hot Weather Camping Tips

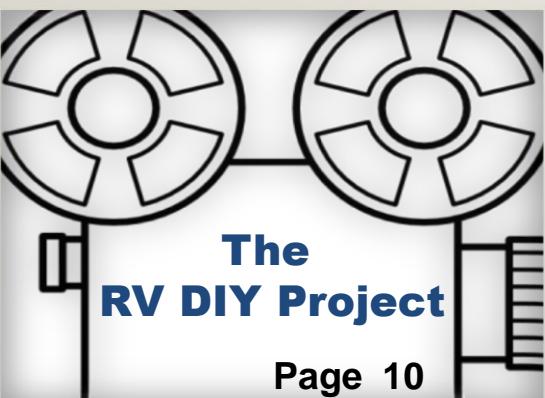
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There are probably more, but here are 5 emergency items you should keep in your RV.



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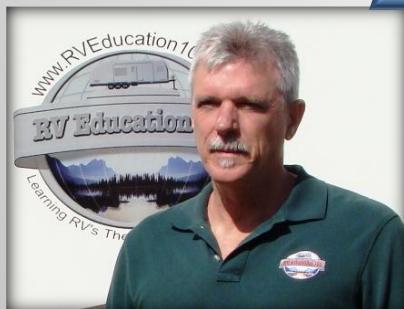
- Devin T., Georgia

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This is a busy year for us. We are updating some of our older DVD titles and continuing to work on improving our instant video download delivery processes.

To film the new DVD titles Keystone RV loaned us a 2015 Keystone Passport travel trailer. In addition to updating DVD titles I made the decision (like we don't already have enough projects) to do an "RV DIY Project Video Series" using the Keystone travel trailer. We are releasing a series of RV DIY videos demonstrating some easy RV DIY projects folks can do on their RVs. The videos will be a combination of some cool RV products and how-to installation videos. The first six installments are included in this issue.

Enjoy this month's issue, and if you have RV friends and family tell them to subscribe, and to like us on [Facebook](#) Happy Camping

~ Mark

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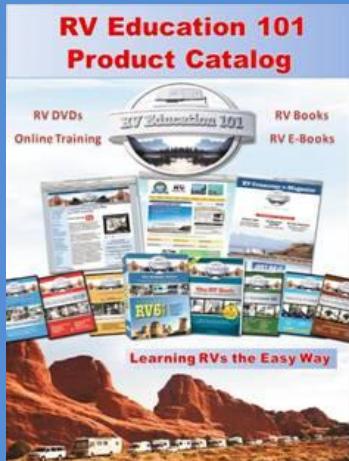
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RV Education 101 Product Catalog



Our digital RV Product Catalog puts all of our RV training products in one place, and we separate what products apply to what type of RV. For example if you own a travel trailer you can browse through the single DVD titles or go directly to the DVD value sets that apply specifically to travel trailers.

This helps accomplish two things; it eliminates the guess work as to which DVD titles go together, and it saves the RV consumer a significant amount of money with our DVD box set discounts. Our goal at RV Education 101 is simple, to help RV owners until they are comfortable operating and using their RV, and to make their entire RV experience safe, fun and stress free. [Browse the product catalog now](#)

Enjoy the RV Journey

wherever it takes you

Prepare your RV for Summer Camping

By Mark Polk



Summer is a great time to go camping, but it can be taxing on some of your RV appliances. Here are a few tips on how you can help your RV work more efficiently, and make your camping trips more pleasurable when the heat is on.

RV Air Conditioner:

You can improve your RV air conditioners efficiency by keeping the A/C filters clean. In most cases you can wash the filters in warm soapy water, rinse thoroughly and allow them to dry before reinstalling. Another option is to clean the filters with a small hand held vacuum cleaner. Try to keep a spare set of A/C filters on hand in the event the old filters have seen better days.

Ask for a shady site when you check in at the campground. This will not only help cool the RV down, but your refrigerator and roof A/C will work much more efficiently.

Use your patio awning and any window awnings to assist in cooling the RV down. In addition to the awnings use your window blinds or curtains to help keep the sun out and the cooler air in.

Try to avoid, or minimize using appliances that produce heat like the range burners or oven. Cook outside rather than inside whenever possible.

Start the air conditioner early in the morning to get the RV cooled down before the midday heat comes on. This will help maintain a cooler temperature throughout the day.

RV Refrigerator:

The initial cool down process can take 4 to 6 hours. You should turn it on the day



before you plan to leave, and before you put any food in it. When you do put food in the refrigerator the food should already be cold, and the food put in the freezer should already be frozen. Putting cold food in the refrigerator, rather than warm food allows the refrigerator to work more efficiently.

One common mistake made is to over pack the refrigerator. There has to be space between the foods to allow for air to circulate throughout the compartment. In most situations you will have access to a store where you can buy food. A 3 or 4 day supply of food should be enough. To assist with air circulation you can purchase an inexpensive, battery operated refrigerator fan. Put the batteries in the fan and place it in the front of the refrigerator compartment blowing up (cold air drops and warm air rises).

The fan will improve the efficiency by circulating the air and it will reduce the initial cool down time by up to 50%.

The heat created by the cooling process is vented behind the refrigerator. Air enters through the outside lower refrigerator vent and helps to draft the hot air out through the roof vent.



Periodically inspect the back of the refrigerator and the roof vent for any obstructions like bird nests, leaves or other debris that might prevent the heat from escaping.

The outside temperature also affects the operation and efficiency of your RV refrigerator. When it's really hot outside try parking your RV with the side the refrigerator is on in the shade.

Periodically inspect and clean the refrigerator door gaskets. Check them for a good seal. Place a dollar bill behind the seal and close the door. It should stay there and not drop. When you try to pull it out there should be some resistance felt. Do this in several different places and have any damaged seals replaced.

Try to limit opening the refrigerator or freezer doors, and the length of time you leave the doors open.

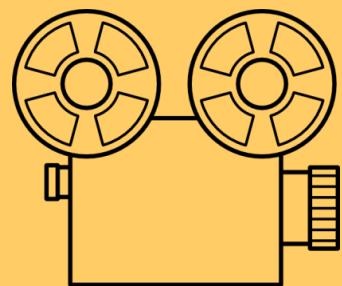
Every time the door is opened it loses a few degrees of cooling. On a hot summer day it won't take long to lose its cooling capacity.

RV Ventilation:

Another key ingredient to keeping your RV cool is proper ventilation. Proper ventilation helps prevent excess heat from building up in your RV and gives heat that is in the RV a way to escape from the RV.



Install Maxx Air vent covers over the roof vents to allow for ventilation. They are inexpensive, easy to install and they let the fresh air in, even when it's raining. I use a vent cover on each end of our RV to promote cross ventilation.



[PLAY VIDEO](#)

P.S. Take a couple of small portable fans with you to help circulate the air. If for some reason you can't run the A/C you'll be glad you have them. **RV 101**

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Check out some RV POLLS

In past newsletters we conducted numerous RV polls. These polls included nearly every RV topic you can imagine. [Go here](#) to see how other RV owners and RV enthusiasts responded to the RV poll questions, or to participate in the polls yourself. It makes for some interesting reading.

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Hot Weather Refrigerator Tips



Leveling

First and foremost the RV must be fairly level for the refrigerator to operate properly. Older RV refrigerators required more precise leveling, but even the newer models need to be close to level for optimum performance.

Over time a cooling unit operated out of level will be permanently damaged. Traveling with the refrigerator on will not cause problems because the liquids and gases in the cooling unit are constantly moving around. They don't collect and stay in areas of the cooling unit like they can in a stationary, out of level refrigerator.

Initial Cool Down

The initial cool down process can take four to six hours. You should turn the refrigerator on the day before you plan to leave, and before you put any food in it. When you do load the refrigerator the food you put in should already be cold, and the food put in the freezer should already be frozen.

Vent Fan

Install a 12 volt, thermostatically controlled refrigerator vent fan at the back of the refrigerator, or at the top of the roof vent, to assist with drafting the hot air away from the refrigerator. If you are mechanically inclined these fans are fairly easy to install, or you can have your RV dealer install one for you. Either way it's worth it. The fan removes the heat built-up behind the refrigerator improving the refrigerators performance by up to 40%.

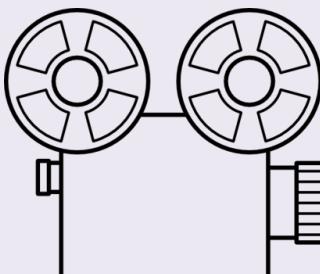
Outside Temperature

The outside temperature also affects the operation and efficiency of your RV refrigerator. When hot outside you may need to raise the temperature setting. Some refrigerators are preset by the manufacturer. Extremely hot weather will directly affect the refrigerators efficiency. When it's really hot outside try parking your RV with the side the refrigerator is on in the shade. Periodically inspect and clean the refrigerator door gaskets. Check them for a good seal. Place a dollar bill behind the seal and close the door. It should stay there and not drop. When you try to pull it out there should be some resistance felt. Do this in several different places and have any damaged seals replaced.

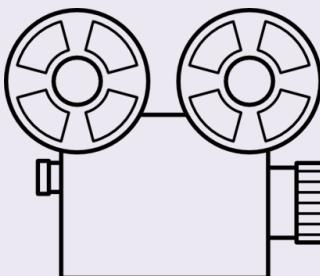
RV absorption refrigerators do a great job for RVers. They will do an even better job, and last longer, if we apply these simple tips to make their job easier and less demanding. **RV 101**

The RV DIY Project

Keystone RV loaned us a 2015 Keystone Passport travel trailer to use in updating some of our older DVD titles in 2015. When the travel trailer arrived I contacted keystone RV and asked if they would mind if I used the trailer to film some RV DIY videos while we had it. I explained this would be a combination of product installation videos, how-to videos and RV DIY videos demonstrating projects folks could do on their RVs. Keystone RV said to have at it, so the "RV DIY Project Video Series" was born. [Read the Press Release here](#). Over the next couple months we will release a series of RV DIY Project videos using the Keystone Passport travel trailer as our project RV. To keep up with the project videos [subscribe to our RV Education 101 YouTube channel](#) and you will be notified every time we release a new video. Here are the first six installments.

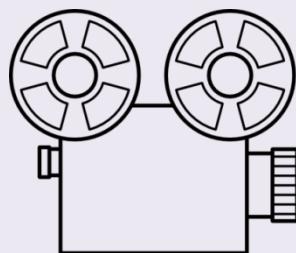


[How-to Protect your RV Water System](#)

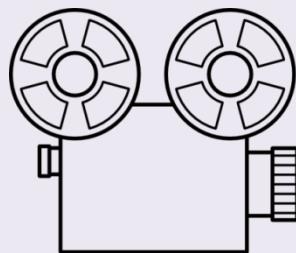


[How-to Protect your RV Electrical System](#)

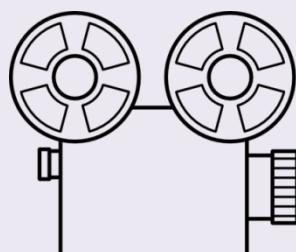
For more great RV information between magazine issues check out [Mark's Blog](#)



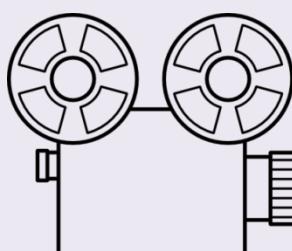
[Must Have Trailer Towing Accessories](#)



[How-to Install an RV Roof Vent](#)



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[Extend-A-Line Campground Clothes Dryer](#)

On the Road with the American RVer

by [Winegard](#)

The Definition of Recreational Vehicle

An RV is a vehicle that combines transportation and living quarters for travel and recreation purposes.

A look at the RV Enthusiast

ESTIMATED **9 MILLION RVs** ON THE ROAD



THE RV INDUSTRY HAS PRODUCED

1.1 MILLION RVs
IN THE PAST 4 YEARS

Fast Facts about RVers

The typical RVer



48 YEARS OLD



39% HAVE CHILDREN
UNDER 18 LIVING AT HOME



MEDIAN INCOME
\$62K

Fastest Growing Segment: 35-54 years old

Intend to buy another RV: 70%

Owning their RV: Average of 8.4 years

Own their RV over 10 years: 30%





Where are RVers going?

Top 5 Most Popular RV Destinations

#1
Grand Canyon
Arizona



#2
Devil's Tower
Wyoming



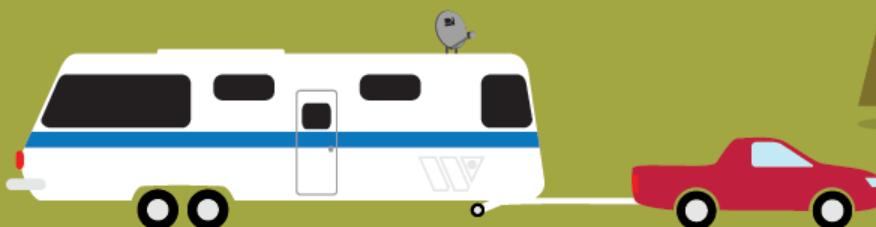
#3
Mt. Rushmore
South Dakota



#4
Disney World
Florida



#5
Outer Banks
North Carolina



RV travel for a family of four is **27-62% Less expensive** than vacations that include hotel, airfare, and restaurant costs.





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TYPE C



CLASS A



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TV ANTENNA

ROADTRIP MISSION
ROOFTOP AUTOMATIC
SATELLITE TV ANTENNA



TRAV'LER
OPEN-FACE ROOFTOP
SATELLITE TV ANTENNA

RAYZAR AIR
MULTI-DIRECTIONAL
AMPLIFIED OFF-AIR
TV ANTENNA

RAYZAR AUTOMATIC
AUTOMATIC OFF-AIR
TV ANTENNA



SOURCES

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Terrance Zepke / Go RVing
<http://terrancezepke.com/2012/08/17/five-most-popular-rv-destinations/>



This infographic of the American RVer with RV fun facts, popular RV destinations, and RV TV entertainment and antennas is presented by Winegard. For all your RV entertainment needs visit www.winegard.com

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Tuson Sway Control

Advanced Trailer Sway Control for Electric Brake Trailers



By Alan Hoogenakker

There are few highway driving situations more frightening than driving down the road, towing your trailer when suddenly it begins to sway back and forth with increasing intensity. As the sway intensifies you feel it pulling your tow vehicle from side-to-side to the extent you aren't sure you can maintain steering control. There have been situations where drivers could not maintain control, and severe accidents have resulted.

The Tuson Sway Control (TSC) was developed to automatically activate and prevent trailer sway conditions from increasing to a dangerous level, thereby preventing trailer sway accidents. The TSC is a small 4 x 6 inch box that mounts on the trailer and connects into the trailer brake wiring. It continuously monitors the motion of the trailer, and when it detects a trailer sway event it activates by applying the left and right side trailer brakes independently to counteract the sway and keep the trailer under control. The sway control activation of the TSC is fully automatic and requires no driver interaction whatsoever. The TSC does not

interfere with the driver's ability to apply the trailer brakes as you normally would. If sway control is needed while the driver is braking, the TSC supplements the left and right side brake levels to provide continuous sway control.

After the TSC is installed on the trailer there are no adjustments or maintenance required.

An LED status light is mounted in an easily visible area on the trailer to indicate that the TSC is working properly. The LED light will also blink a series of red flashes to indicate the detection of any problems such as a trailer brake wire short. As long as the trailer brakes are maintained in proper working order, the TSC will have everything it needs to control trailer sway.

Some newer model pickup trucks are equipped with a "trailer sway control" option as part of the on-board vehicle stability package. The truck's trailer

sway control system monitors the stability of the truck at highway speeds, and when a lateral (side-to-side) force is detected by the swaying trailer acting on the truck hitch, the system attempts to reduce the trailer sway by:

- 1) killing the truck throttle forcing a slowdown
- 2) applying the truck brakes
- 3) applying both trailer brakes (if the truck has an OEM brake controller in the dash).

The TSC has greater sensitivity in detecting a trailer sway event than the truck system because it is sensing the trailer motion rather than detecting forces on the truck hitch. The truck system requires the trailer sway to grow large enough for the truck to sense the hitch being moved back and forth. The sway amount required to move the truck hitch is dependent on the size of the truck and trailer combination. With a lighter trailer behind a heavy, stable truck, the light trailer swaying may not create enough force on the hitch for the truck to sense it and therefore not activate the trucks trailer sway control. The TSC does not have that limitation since it is measuring trailer movement and therefore will function the same regardless of trailer size (one size fits all).

The TSC has been independently tested by one of the major truck

manufacturers in conjunction with their truck's "trailer sway control" system. The purpose of the test was to see if the two systems were compatible when actively controlling trailer sway. The results and conclusions were as follows:

- 1) the systems are compatible and complement each other while activating during trailer sway events
- 2) the TSC alone improved trailer sway enough to meet the trailer stability guidelines of SAE J2807 and
- 3) the TSC activated sooner than the truck system and reduced the amount of activation by the truck system.

So if your truck has trailer sway control built in, the TSC will provide improved sway control while working together with your trucks system.

Another safety feature of the TSC is realized during a sudden evasive maneuver like avoiding a road hazard or another vehicle. If the trailer is suddenly jerked hard in one direction, the TSC will activate immediately to apply the trailer brakes on the proper side to dampen and control the slide of the trailer and then be ready to apply the brakes on the opposite side should the trailer swing back the other way.

This feature can also be activated if a strong gust of wind suddenly pushes the trailer to one side.

The TSC can also be used in conjunction with a weight distributing/sway control hitch, although using the TSC alone is sufficient protection from a dangerous sway event. Weight distributing/sway control hitches do provide a more comfortable, smoother driving feel between the truck and trailer, especially when going over dips and bumps in the road.

Tuson has conducted instrumented testing on a trailer equipped with a 4-point sway control/weight distributing hitch and the TSC. The results showed that both systems work well together although only the TSC was able to control the larger sways. The sway hitch was most effective at dampening small sways (below the TSC activation thresholds) but as the sways grew in intensity the sway hitch lost effectiveness and the TSC was there to take over and counteract the large sways and maintain control.

Existing RVs and other electric brake trailers can have the TSC installed as an aftermarket item by a qualified trailer service center. The TSC is available from Dexter Axle in the US and Canada and from distributors such as Southwest Wheel (Dallas, TX) and CanAm RV (London, ON, Canada). The units offered by Dexter Axle are labeled as the “Dexter Sway Control (DSC)” and are identical to the “Tuson Sway Control (TSC)”. Dexter has sold the majority of their units to date in the Australian

market and sales in the US are growing. The TSC is also available to RV Dealers and Trailer Parts Dealers across the country.

The TSC provides the RV owner with an added sense of security especially when driving in extreme environmental conditions, strong winds, passing semis and down-hill towing that can increase the likelihood of a dangerous trailer sway event. For more information on the Tuson Sway Control please visit the website www.direclink.com or call Tuson toll free at 800-968-8766.

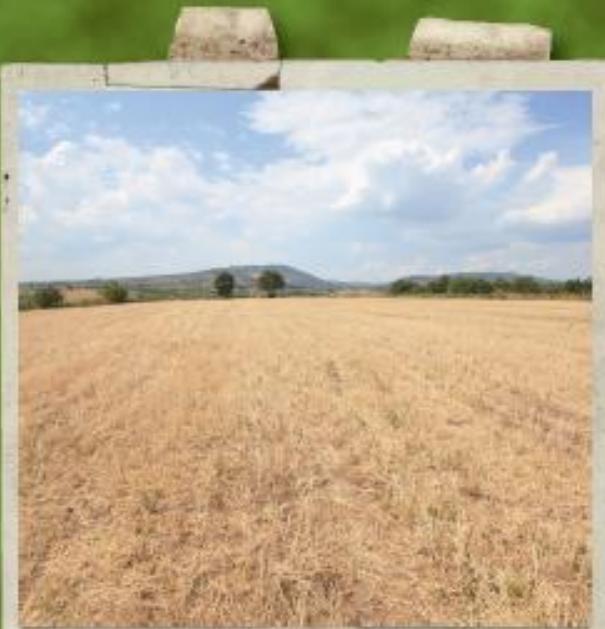
There are several national parts distributors where the TSC can be purchased. NTPSTAG/Keystone Automotive Operations stocks the TSC for immediate order. TexTrail Trailer Parts and Nuera Transport are other national parts distributors that currently carry the TSC in stock.

All of the major RV manufacturing companies are considering offering the TSC on newly built travel trailers and fifth wheels. The TSC is currently the only trailer mounted sway control solution for 5th wheel trailers. Toy Haulers are especially in need of the TSC due to their heavy, sometimes unbalanced loads in the rear of the trailer that can contribute to dangerous trailer sway conditions. The first RV OEM Company that has offered the TSC as an option is Forest River in the Nitro and Thunderbolt toy hauler models.

How will you
Remember
your travels?



*The laptop we would've used to
keep in touch with the kids.*



*Cook's Field, the week after we
missed the Bluegrass Festival.*



*The guy from Ed's Towing.
Spent three hours with him.*

Not all insurance is equal. Just because you have your RV insured, doesn't mean your whole RV experience is covered. Things like personal effects coverage, vacation liability, and towing expenses are frequently left out of other carriers' policies. But at Explorer RV, we believe it's more than just your RV we're covering. It's the travels, the good times, the memories. Visit us online to learn more or to get a quote.

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Hot Weather Camping Tips to Stay Cool

The first thing I recommend is to make sure your RV air conditioner is ready for the hot weather. One of the most important things you can do is keep the air conditioner filters clean or replaced. The cleaner the filters the more efficient the air conditioner is. You can remove the filters and clean them with a vacuum cleaner or clean them using soapy water, rinse thoroughly and let them dry prior to re-installing them.

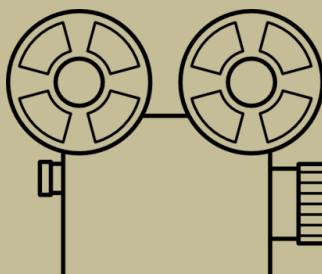
Your RV air conditioner is designed to condition/cool the interior temperature, on average, 15 to 20 degrees lower than the ambient temperature. To check your air conditioner you can purchase a small thermometer at an auto parts store. Place the thermometer at the intake side of the air conditioner (where the filters are) and take a reading. Next place the thermometer at a duct or grill where the conditioned air comes out. If the reading between the two temperatures is less than 15 degrees there could be something wrong with the air conditioner.

Have it checked by a RV repair facility before taking any hot weather camping trips.

In addition to making sure the air conditioner is up to the task there are several other things you can do.

- When you get to your camping destination ask for a shady site to park the RV on.
- Use any window awnings and your patio awning for more shade, and to help stop direct sunlight from hitting the windows and sides of the RV.
- Close the window blinds or shades to help keep the cooler air inside.
- Try to avoid opening the entry door as much as possible and cook outside rather than inside.
- Use any power ventilation fans you have in the RV. You can use them on the intake mode to help circulate air and in the exhaust mode to help remove any unwanted warm air.

As a last resort, if it's just too hot to take, head to the campground pool and get cooled off.



[Watch Video](#)

Louisville Open-Faced Hot Brown Sandwich



The Cooking Ladies, Phyllis Hinz and Lamont Mackay, are freelance writers, restaurant consultants, cookbook authors, event speakers, and RVers. Please take a minute to visit their website:

www.thecookingladies.com

Louisville Open-Faced Hot Brown Sandwich

(Makes 2 large servings)

2 1/2 tablespoons (37.5 mL) butter
3 tablespoons (45 mL) all purpose flour
3 cups (750 mL) milk
1/8 teaspoon (.625 mL) white pepper
1 1/2 cups (375mL) grated mild cheddar cheese
2 large slices sourdough bread
8 ounces (227 g) thinly sliced smoked turkey
6 slices crisp cooked bacon, chopped small
2 medium fresh tomatoes, chopped small
1/2 cup (125 mL) shredded Parmesan cheese

- * Melt the butter in a saucepan over medium heat. Remove from the heat and stir in the flour, whisking constantly until smooth. Continue to whisk while slowly adding the milk.
- *Place the saucepan back over medium heat. Whisk constantly until the sauce is thickened and the flour is cooked.
- *Stir in the white pepper and grated cheddar cheese. Stir until the cheese is completely melted. If the cheese sauce needs to be thinned, add milk 2 tablespoons at a time.
- *Toast the sourdough bread.
- *Divide and layer the turkey slices evenly over the slices of toast.
- *Spoon the cheese sauce over the sliced turkey.
- *Top the cheese sauce with the chopped bacon and chopped tomato.
- *Sprinkle the Parmesan cheese over the bacon and tomato.
- *Sprinkle the Parmesan cheese over the bacon and tomato.
- *Eat with a knife and fork.

[Happy Hour Recipes PDF E-book](#)

This #1 best selling e-book is the first in The Cooking Ladies' Favorite series. And to make this cookbook even more outstanding, The Cooking Ladies have included a photo of each finished dish. Recipe ingredients are given in both Imperial and metric measurements.

RV Education 101

YouTube Channel



If you want access to informative RV how-to videos, RV product videos, RV installation videos and more take a minute to visit our [RV Education YouTube channel](#).

You can subscribe to our channel and get notified every time we post a new video. We currently have over 220 RV Education 101 produced videos posted on our channel with over 16,000 subscribers and 4,400,000 video views.

It's a great place to sharpen up on your RV skills and learn more about how to use and maintain your RV.

Getting to



Top 5 Emergency Items to Keep in your RV

We purchase RVs to travel the country and build lasting memories with family and friends. RVs are meant for relaxation and fun, but what happens in the event of an emergency? When you travel to a different camping destination in your RV, on a regular basis, you need to be prepared for an emergency that can happen anytime and anywhere. This list of emergency items could be much longer, but I want to concentrate on 5 emergency items I think every RV owner should keep in their RV.

The first item on my list is a portable weather radio. In today's world of modern technology some folks think a smart phone with a weather app is all you need, but the problem is you travel through some remote parts of the country in your RV where you don't always have a good signal, or can get data. A good portable weather radio can operate on batteries or 120-volt AC power and will warn you of potential weather hazards in and around the area where you are camping. Visit www.noaa.gov for more information.

Next on my list is a reputable RV Emergency Roadside Assistance Plan. There are lots of plans available so take time to research the plan and select one that fits your particular needs. Look for a plan designed specifically for RVs. When you break down in the middle of nowhere on your vacation you will be glad you invested in a good plan. It can pay for towing expenses, a place to stay while the RV is being repaired, for fuel or getting in a locked RV and to repair a flat tire.

When you pack the RV for your next trip make sure you include a basic road hazard kit. At a minimum it should include a good set of jumper cables, a heavy-duty flashlight, one or more reflective warning triangles, some basic hand tools, a fluorescent safety vest, a portable gas can and a good first aid kit if you don't already have one in the RV. A few simple items can get you out of a jam and assist in staying safe until help arrives.

This might sound silly but I recommend keeping clothing in the RV for all weather conditions. You might be traveling south during the summer months, but you never know when cold or wet weather will hit or

when the heat might quit working in the RV. It's best to be prepared by packing some cold weather clothing on those warm weather trips.

In addition to a good Emergency Roadside Assistance Plan I recommend a reputable RV Extended Service Contract. Again there are lots of these services available, so shop around for the best plan prior to purchasing one. The roadside assistance plan helps you in the event of an unexpected emergency and the Extended Service Plan helps pay for the necessary repairs. Nothing will ruin a trip quicker than a \$500 or \$1,000 repair bill when you least expect it.

I mentioned earlier that this list could be longer, but this is a good start. Add to this list to suit your particular needs and you will be ready for an emergency when you least expect it. To discover some great camping destinations for your next trip visit www.koa.com and to learn more about your RV visit www.rveducation101.com ~RV101

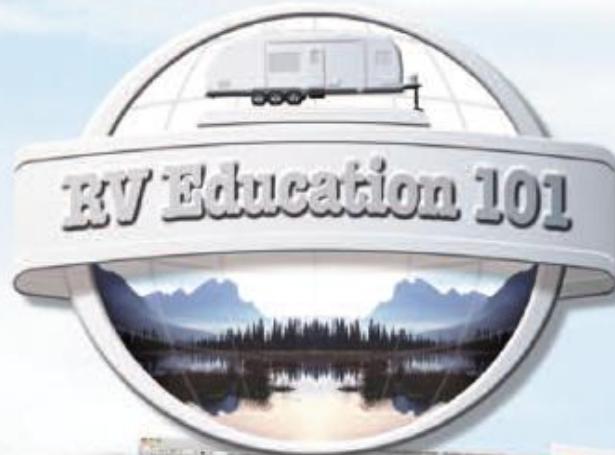
Send Us Your Campground Set-Up Pictures



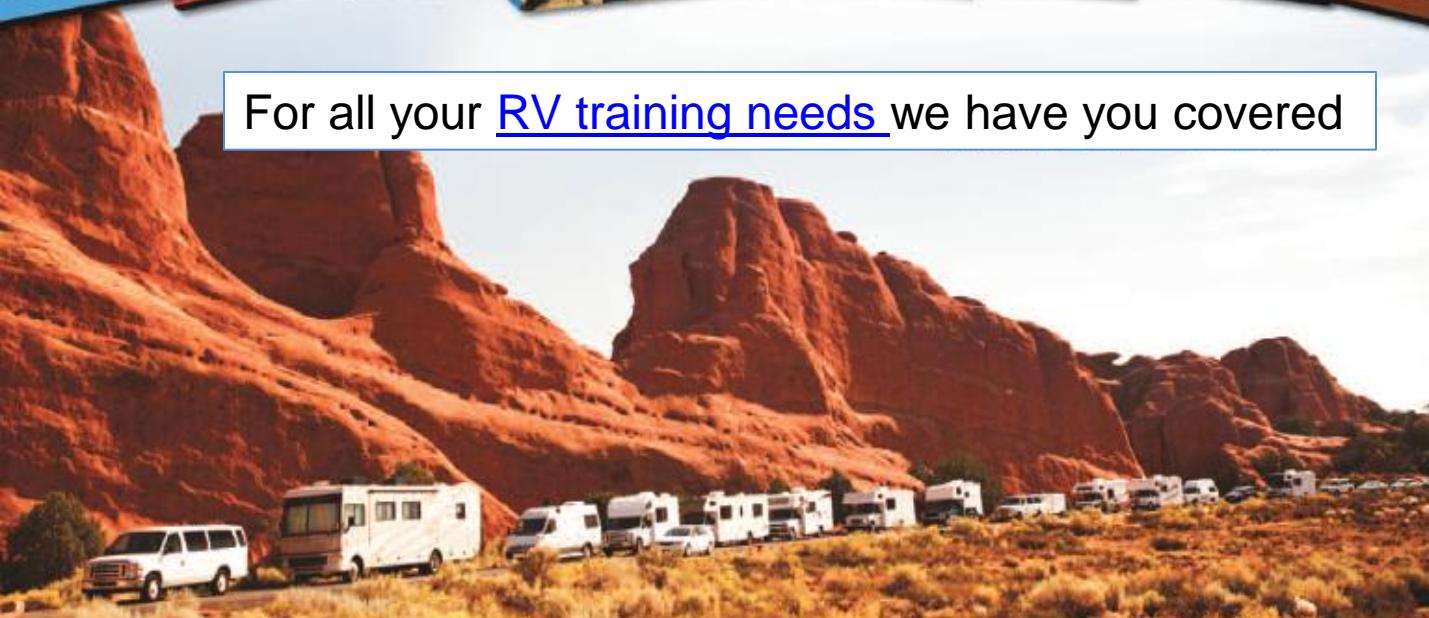
It's always fun to see how folks set-up the exterior of their RVs at the campground. In an upcoming video we are discussing the different ways people set-up and decorate their RVs after they arrive at their camping destination. Send us a picture of your campground set-up to possibly be included in the video, and stay tuned to RV Consumer e-magazine for the video to be released.

Just email your pictures to mark@rveducation101.com and include a short message stating we have your permission to use the photo's in the upcoming video.

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Our goal with RV Consumer E-Magazine is to provide you with helpful information to make all of your RV experiences more enjoyable. I left my position as an RV Sales and F&I manager in 2000 to start RV Education 101.

We produce RV educational videos & DVDs and publish books and e-books on how to safely & properly use and maintain your RV. The reason I left my job was because of my concern about the lack of educational and safety awareness material available to the RV consumer, in other words you.

My wife Dawn left her position in RV sales to help start the company, and is our Sales and Marketing Director. We currently have a 35-foot Class A motor home. We have two boys, Tyler 18 and Josh 24, both avid RVers and two dogs, Roxie and Gracie.

If you would like to learn more about us and about RV Education 101 please visit

www.rveducation101.com

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