

RV Consumer e-Magazine

August 2015

Volume 5

Issue 8



DISCOVER

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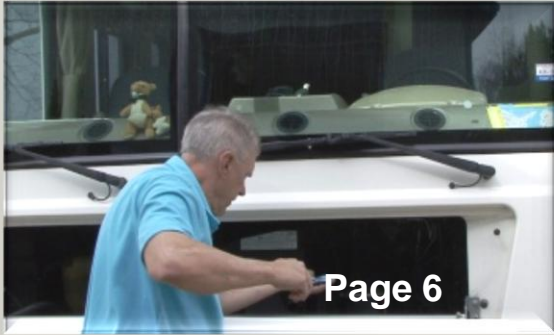
The end of a perfect day RVing

**Top 10 Consumable Items to
Always Have in your RV**

**Hot Weather Preventive Maintenance for RVs
& Trailer Towing Tips from Equal-i-zer Hitch**

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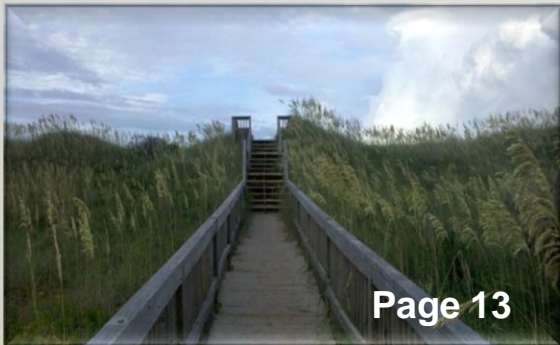
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Page 6



Page 11



Page 13

IN THIS ISSUE

6 Hot Weather Preventive Maintenance

Get some hot weather preventive maintenance tips to keep your RV and/or tow vehicle in top operating condition.

11 Consumable Items to keep in the RV

Read my top 10 list of consumable items to always keep on-hand in your RV.

13 Some Fun things to do on RV Trips

Here are some ideas for fun things to do when you are out enjoying your RV this summer.

DEPARTMENTS

4 Editor's Desk

23 Newly Released RV Videos

Watch some informative RV videos RV Education 101 recently released

24 Trailer Towing Safety

Get some great trailer towing tips from the experts at Equal-i-zer Hitch.

28 How-To Stay Cool in Your RV

Tips on how-to stay cool in your RV this summer



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- Devin T., Georgia



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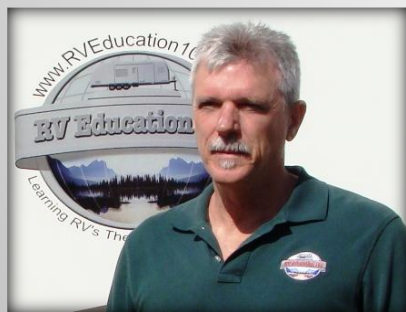
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We finally got caught up on some work and took an RV trip to one of our favorite destinations, the North Carolina Outer Banks. There is no better place to unwind than this chain of coastal islands. I have always enjoyed swimming and boogie boarding in the ocean, but with all the recent shark attacks we decided it might be best to stay out of the water. That didn't ruin the trip though, the campground had a great swimming pool and we enjoyed sight-seeing, fishing and some good old fashioned rest and relaxation.

The only bad part of the trip was it ended to quickly! Plan some RV trips and enjoy the 2015 camping season in your RV.

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

Happy Camping,

~ Mark

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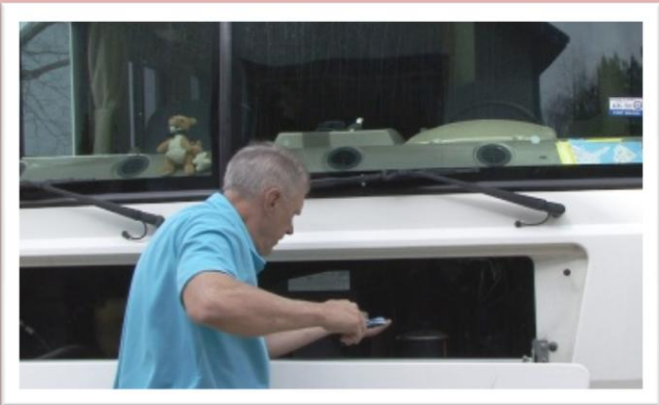
Our digital RV Product Catalog puts all of our RV training products in one place, and we separate what products apply to what type of RV. For example if you own a travel trailer you can browse through the single DVD titles or go directly to the DVD value sets that apply specifically to travel trailers.

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](#)



Hot Weather Preventive Maintenance for RVs

By Mark Polk



The goal of every RV trip is to get to our destination, enjoy our vacation and return home without giving a thought to breaking down or something in the RV not operating properly.

RVs are designed for seasonal use, but we need to prepare the RV for the climate and temperatures we plan to travel and camp in. RVing during the summer months presents a unique set of maintenance issues and concerns. Preparation is the key to success. The lack of routine and preventive maintenance will in time cause us headaches and frustration, usually when we least expect it. Preparation includes the tow vehicle or RV chassis and the coach.

With summer at it's peak let's look at some hot weather preventive maintenance for RVs.

Chassis Hot Weather Preventive Maintenance:

Routine & Scheduled Maintenance:

Check your vehicle or RV owner's manual for routine and scheduled maintenance intervals. Have all scheduled maintenance performed as recommended. **Note:** It is absolutely essential you read your owner's manual and warranty information in regards to who is responsible for what when it comes to routine and scheduled maintenance. Scheduled maintenance that is required by the manufacturer and not performed can void your warranty.

Check all fluid levels: Check the engine oil, transmission fluid, power steering, brakes, coolant and the windshield washer fluid. Top off levels according to the owner's manual guidelines.

Check the air filter: A dirty air filter can lower fuel economy by 10%, replace as required.

Check for any leaks: Inspect the engine compartment and underside of the RV for any signs of leaks. Leaks of any type can lead to costly repairs and untimely breakdowns. Catching a leak early can save time and money. Identify the source of the leak and have it repaired before using the RV.

Check radiator coolant: Check the radiator coolant reservoir level,

condition and concentration. Never remove any radiator cap when the engine is hot or under pressure. The reservoir is usually a see-through plastic container with **add** and **full** marks labeled on the side. Add coolant as required. Follow the manufacturer's recommendation for flushing the radiator and for the proper type and concentration of coolant to use.

Radiator & heater hoses: Coolant hoses deteriorate from the inside out. Inspect all hoses for wear, cracks, soft spots, brittle areas and leaks. Inspect hose clamps for secure mounting. Replace any damaged hoses or clamps.

Belts: Inspect all belts for wear, glazing, fraying, cracks and proper tension. As a general rule you can place your thumb in the middle of the belt between the pulleys and when you press on the belt there should be about a ½ inch of deflection. Replace damaged, worn or stretched belts as required. **Note:** Belts with automatic tensioners do not require adjustments.

Lights: Make sure all lights are clean and operating properly. Check the headlights (low & high beam), running lights, turn signals, brake lights and emergency flashers. Check all lights on any vehicle or trailer you are towing behind a motorhome too. Carry spare bulbs and fuses for the lights. Repair or replace lights as required.

Windshield wipers & blades: Inspect the operation and condition of wipers

and blades. Don't wait until the wiper blades are worn and brittle. Replace the blades at the first indication of poor operation. Cleaning the blades will prolong their life. **Tip:** You can use windshield washer fluid on a rag to clean wiper blades.

Chassis & coach batteries:

Caution: If you are not comfortable working around batteries have the work done by a qualified service facility. Remove jewelry and wear gloves and eye protection when working around batteries. To prevent the possibility of arcing always disconnect the negative battery cable when working on or around batteries. If you have a maintenance free battery you will not be able to perform some of these checks. The color of the eye on the battery will indicate the condition of a maintenance free battery. Constant charging depletes electrolyte levels in batteries. Inspect water levels and add distilled water as required. Add water until the level reaches the split-level marker in each cell. Inspect all battery cables and terminal connections. Keep all connections clean and tight. You can clean batteries using a 50/50 diluted baking soda and water solution. After you clean the batteries flush thoroughly with clean water.

Check the state of charge and keep batteries fully charged. Follow proper charging instructions for the type of battery. Deep cycle batteries require a lower amp charge over a longer period of time.

Tires: Use a quality inflation pressure gauge to check and inflate tire pressure to the tire manufacturers recommended pressure. Always check and inflate tire pressure when tires are cold, before traveling more than one mile. Inspect all tires for signs of uneven wear and for checking or cracking on the sidewalls. If one tire shows signs of wear faster than another tire it may be a sign of something other than normal wear. Have any tire damage inspected by an qualified tire service center. Do not operate the RV with tires that show signs of damage or excessive wear.

Check your emergency kit: At a minimum it should include a flashlight, extra batteries, jumper cables, first aid kit, basic hand tools, and warning devices.

Coach Hot Weather Preventive Maintenance:

Test the roof air conditioner(s) for proper operation. Clean or replace A/C filters.

Test the refrigerator in the A/C & LP gas mode. Do not over pack the refrigerator or freezer with food Allow room for air circulation in the refrigerator compartments. Install a thermostatically controlled refrigerator vent fan to maximize the refrigerator's efficiency.

Strategically park your RV to take advantage of any shade. This helps the refrigerator and roof A/C operate more efficiently.

Install some type of roof vent covers to allow ventilation inside the RV.

Check all awnings for proper operation.

Check the operation of the generator when it is under a load. Check the generator engine oil & all filters. It may be necessary to change oil with the manufacturers recommended oil viscosity for hot weather operation. Put the summer/winter preheat lever in the summer position (if equipped). Always inspect the generator exhaust system prior to operating the generator.

Appliances: Check all electric and gas appliances for proper operation.

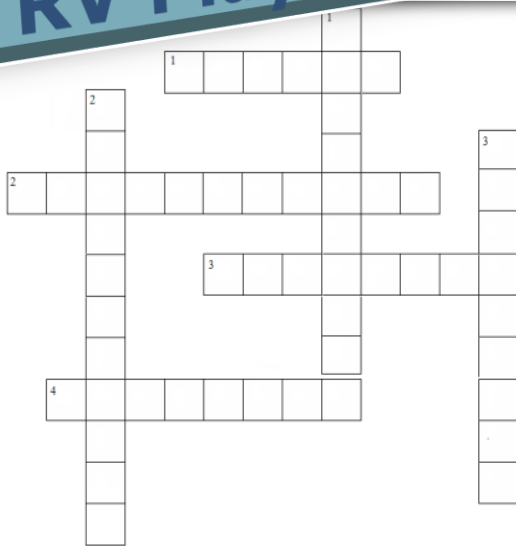
Holding tank treatments: It may be necessary to add more chemicals when treating the black tank during hot weather camping.

Safety devices: Check the fire extinguisher, smoke alarm, carbon monoxide and LP leak detector for proper operation prior to your trip.

Take precautions when traveling with pets in hot weather. Never leave them inside a hot RV. Give pets plenty of fresh water and ventilation.

A little preventive maintenance goes a long way. Remember the lack of preventive maintenance and scheduled maintenance can result in emergency maintenance. This is something we can all do without! ~RV 101

RV Play & Learn

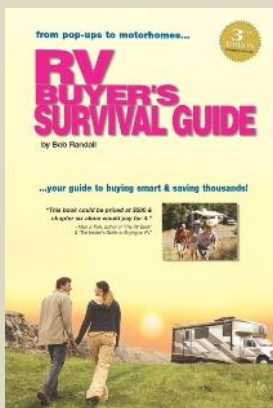
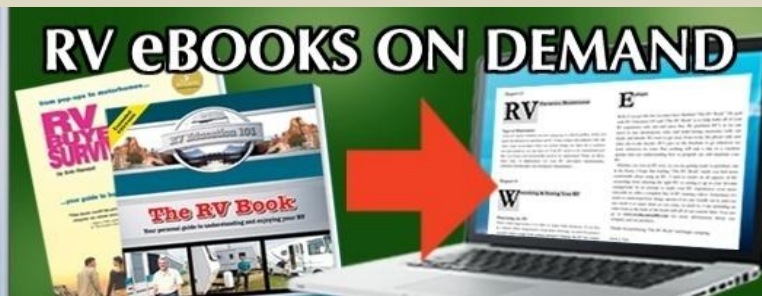


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find out!

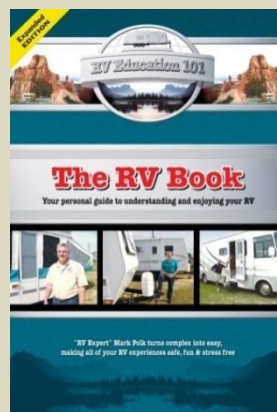
[Play
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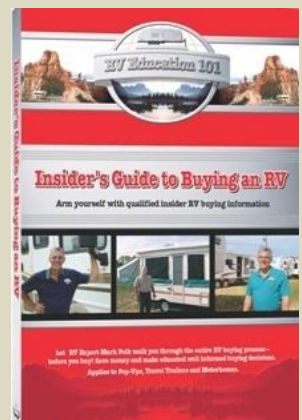
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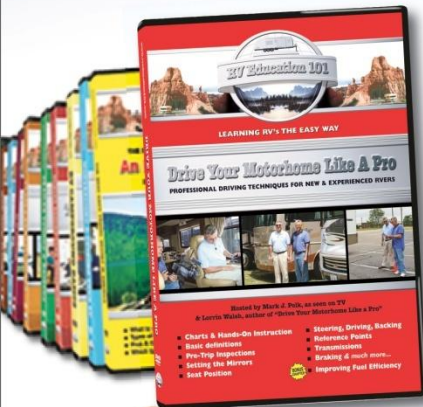
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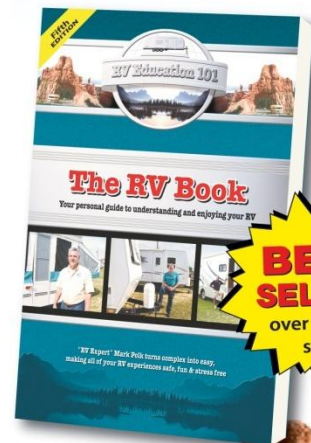
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Top 10 Consumable Items to Always Have in Your RV



When you go camping in your RV there are items that are essential like a drinking water hose and RV sewer hoses, and there are nice to have items like a GPS designed for RVs and a portable BBQ grill. But today I want to focus on consumable items that you should always have on-hand in your RV.

In no particular order here are my top 10 consumable items to keep in your RV.

1) For starters you need holding tank treatments to treat the black water holding tank after you empty it. There are dry and liquid type holding tank treatments available. I suggest products that are biodegradable and environmentally friendly. **Camping Tip:** After emptying the gray water holding tank you can add some liquid dish soap down all the drains and run

the water long enough to get the soap past the P-trap, and to cover the bottom of the tank. The dish soap and water will help control odors and assist in cleaning the tank.

2) While we are on the subject of RV holding tanks it's a good idea to stock up on toilet paper designed for use in RVs. This is one consumable item you don't want to leave home without.

Camping Tip: To see if toilet paper is compatible with your RV waste-water system put one sheet of the toilet paper into a glass full of water. If it starts to break-down and fall apart within a few seconds of being in the water it is suitable for use in RVs.

3) Laundry soap & dish soap are must have consumable items too. Clothes are going to get dirty and will need to be washed, especially if your camping trip is for more than a weekend excursion. You can purchase these items at the campground store, but it will be less expensive to purchase it where you normally shop and just keep in the RV.

4) Next on my list is a well stocked cabinet of first aid supplies and over the counter medications. You never know when an accident will happen, or when somebody will get sick. If you are boondocking miles from the closest

town or store you'll be glad you have these consumable items along for the ride. If you or anyone else is on prescription medication make sure you have an ample supply for the duration of your trip, and don't forget the sunscreen too.

5) Number 5 on the list is hand sanitizer and a 3% Hydrogen Peroxide solution in a spray bottle. I keep a bottle of hand sanitizer in the compartment where the sewer connection is made so it's handy when I do my wastewater management chores. I keep a spray bottle of Hydrogen Peroxide in the same compartment so I can disinfect the hose bib prior to connecting my RV drinking hose to the water connection at the campground. Inside the RV we keep hand sanitizer at each sink, and Hydrogen Peroxide for general cleaning and disinfecting in and around the RV.



6) Another consumable item I always have in the outside storage compartment is a supply of disposable gloves. They are inexpensive and can be used for all kinds of chores and

routine maintenance on the RV.

7) In my tool storage compartment I keep a can of spray lubricant available. It should be a dry type lubricant, like graphite, that won't attract dust, dirt and other debris. I personally use Boeshield T9 spray lubricant for everything on the RV. It cleans, lubricates and protects whatever you use it on. **Camping Tip:** At least twice a year spray inside all of the lock mechanisms on the RV. This will keep the locks operating properly and help prevent them from freezing during the cold winter months.

8) Next on my list is disposable tableware. This includes paper plates, napkins, cutlery, cups and tablecloths. You can use regular tableware on most occasions, but sometimes it just easier to use disposable products. Recycle whenever possible!

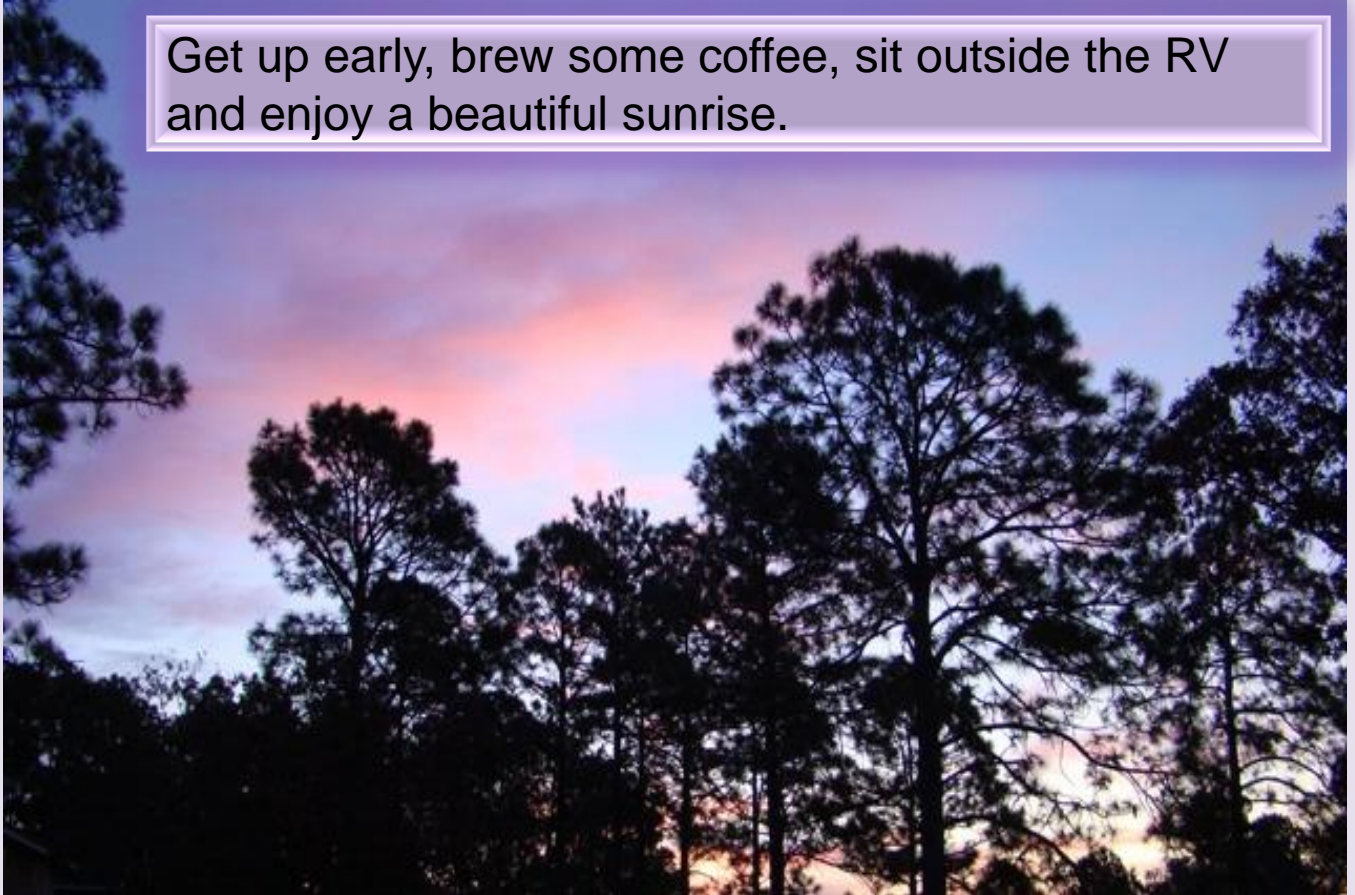
9) I don't know about you but I am a big fan of Zip Ties. I use Zip Ties for all kinds of things when we are on RV trips. They are fairly inexpensive and after they served their purpose you can discard them.

10) Last but certainly not least is good old Duct tape. If Zip Ties won't solve the problem duct tape usually will. I always keep a roll of Duct tape in my tool storage compartment where it's easy to locate when I need it.

There are many other consumable products that could or should be on this list, like doggy clean up bags if you travel with pets. Use this list and add to it to devise your own special RV checklist of consumable items for your RV. **~RV101**

Fun Things to do on RV Trips this Summer

Get up early, brew some coffee, sit outside the RV and enjoy a beautiful sunrise.



Take a long walk on
the beach



A low-angle photograph looking up through a dense forest. Sunlight filters through the canopy, creating a bright, hazy glow at the top center. In the background, a waterfall is visible, cascading down a rocky ledge. The foreground is filled with lush green foliage. A dark gray parallelogram with a white border is centered in the lower half of the image, containing white text.

Take a
hike &
enjoy
Mother
Nature

Climb a mountain and enjoy the view
(Chimney Rock North Carolina State Park)
Elevation 2880 feet



Spend a day
enjoying
campground
activities



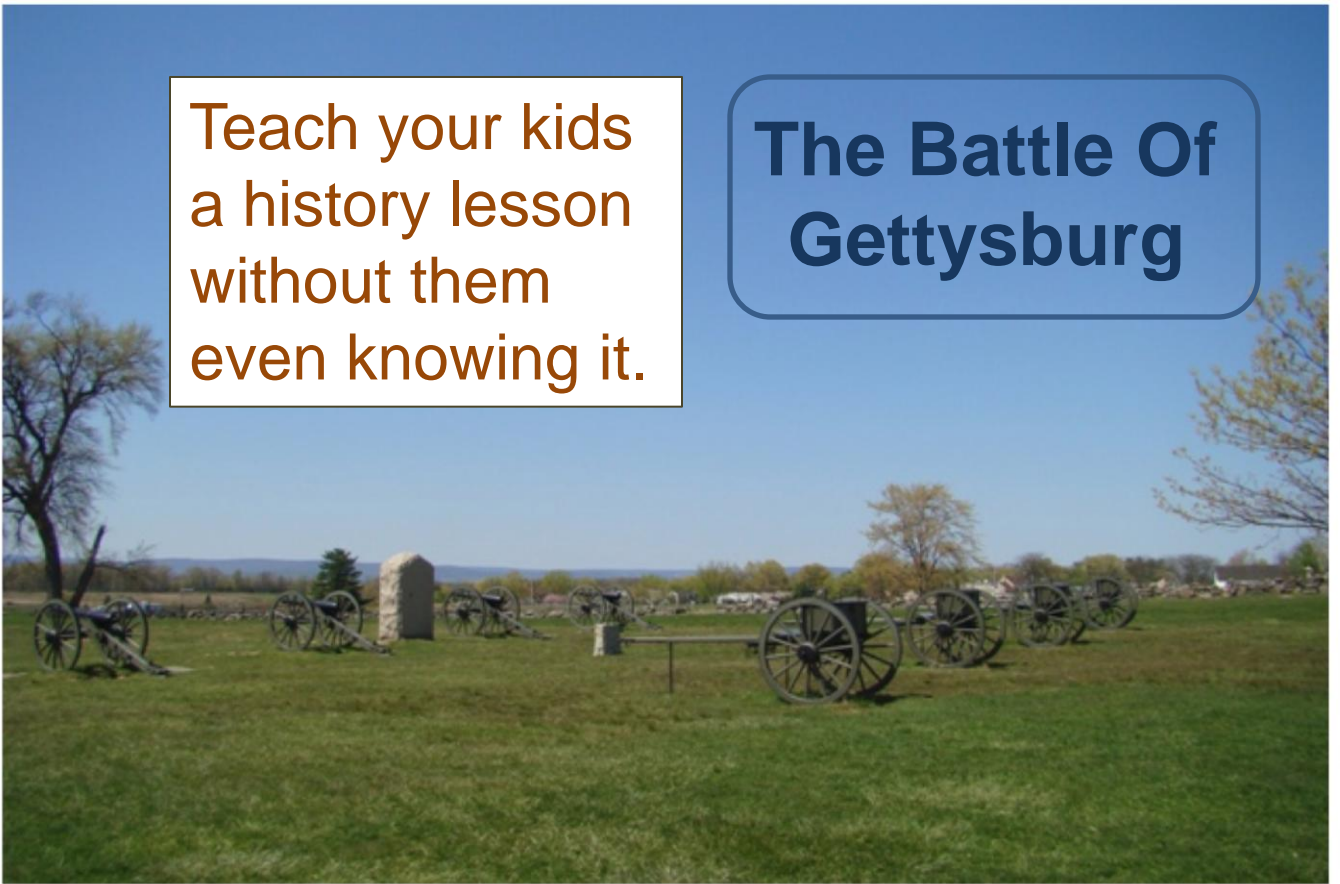
4th of July
Parade

Stop along the way
to smell the roses



Teach your kids
a history lesson
without them
even knowing it.

The Battle Of Gettysburg



Spend some quality time talking to your
kids and see what's going on in their life.



After a busy day of
events enjoy a quiet
evening at the RV



Nature's lights beat city lights anytime!



**Float down a
river on a tube**



Learn a new hobby

Cast netting for shrimp

**Visit a state or
province you've never
been to before**



A close-up, low-angle shot of the side of a white RV. The RV's curved body and a row of three orange marker lights are visible on the left. The large side window reflects the vibrant colors of a sunset or sunrise, showing silhouettes of trees and a bright sky. The background outside the window shows the actual scene: a large, dark tree silhouette against a sky with soft pink, orange, and blue clouds.

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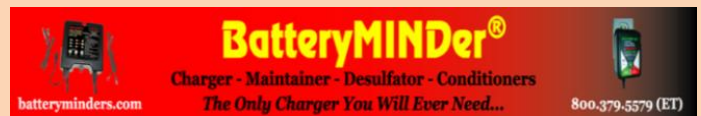
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Tired of dead RV batteries?

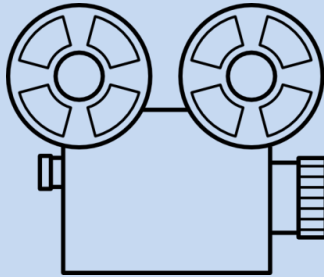
Stop the problem for good with the charger, maintainer & conditioner that Mark uses on all his batteries.

[The Battery Minder](#)

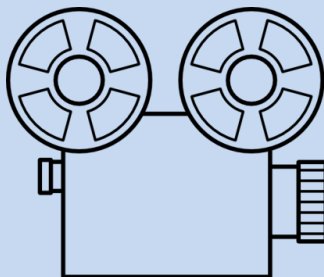


NEWLY Released RV VIDEOS

Here are a couple new RV videos we recently released



[Heavy Duty RV Sewer Hoses](#)



[Universal Campground Sewer Adapter](#)

Trailer Towing Safety - Towing Tips from Equal-i-zer Hitch

PROVO, Utah — Towing a trailer can be precarious if you don't understand how the added weight and length can cause a dangerous situation, both for your family and others on the road.

Equal-i-zer Hitch urges people to stay safe while towing trailers by following a few simple guidelines that minimize and help prevent trailer sway.

"The leading causes of trailer sway are side wind, passing semi-trucks, driving too fast, emergency stops, improper trailer loading, incorrect hitch setup, undersized tow vehicles, or a blowout, which can cause accidents," Kim Dewsnap, RV sales account rep for Equal-i-zer said.

Sway can be both frightening and dangerous, but there are ways to prevent it.

Prevention steps include: ensuring tire air pressure is correct, driving a reasonable speed, leaving plenty of stopping distance, arranging trailer cargo so the center of gravity is just ahead of the axel, making sure the tow vehicle is rated to handle the trailer weight and the brake controller is set up properly, and utilizing a 4-point integrated sway control hitch.

Equal-i-zer's engineering team has been testing towing safety for 70 years. They offered some tips for proper weight distribution and sway prevention.

- 1) Load the trailer correctly. Heaviest items should go centered side-to-side, and the tongue weight should be between 10 percent and 15 percent of the total trailer weight. This gives the trailer the most stability, without overloading the hitch.
- 2) If you are towing a heavy trailer, always use a sway control hitch. Regular hitches and ball mounts do not prevent sway, which leaves you without that extra level of protection when encountering road hazards and inclement weather.
- 3) Sway control hitches have two different weight ratings. You should pay attention to the maximum trailer weight and maximum tongue weight. **Never exceed either rating.** The best way to avoid this is to actually weigh the loaded trailer and size the hitch accordingly.
- 4) Follow the instructions in your hitch owner's manual for proper setup. Remember, when a trailer is coupled to a tow vehicle, the added weight causes the vehicle to teeter-totter over the rear axle.

The front of the tow vehicle raises and the rear sinks. This causes a dangerous towing situation, because less weight on the front axle results in a loss of steering and braking control. Proper set up of your weight distribution hitch changes the way the tow vehicle and trailer couple together. It creates a bridge between the trailer and vehicle, helping them work together like one unit instead of two, distributing weight more evenly to the axles of both vehicles.

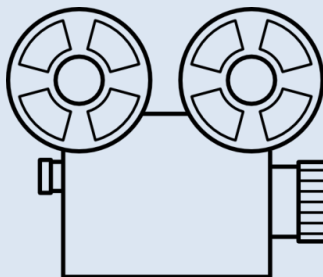
5) Perform a tug pull test to make sure the trailer brakes work, and you are hooked up properly. When you get in the tow vehicle, apply the trailer brake only, and try to pull away. This is a helpful way to make sure the brakes are working, and to make sure the coupler is secure to the hitch balls before hitting the road.

6) Ensure safety chains, breakaway switch, and cable are working and attached properly. If the system and batteries are working properly when you pull the plunger out it should apply the trailer brakes. If your breakaway cable is worn out or frayed, be sure to replace it before heading out on your trip.

If you start to experience sway, do not slam on the brakes. Jeff Jarvis, purchasing agent, advises, "Slide the manual activator on your trailer brake system inside the vehicle while easing off the accelerator, this will apply the brakes on your trailer and help straighten out the trailer. Once the sway stops, slow down, pull over, and make sure everything is loaded and set up properly."

Source: Equal-i-zer press release

[Visit Equal-i-zer Sway Control Hitches](#) for more information



[Must Have Trailer Towing Products](#)

How will you
Remember
your travels?



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



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



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

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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



How-To Stay Cool in your RV this Summer

Summer is here and that means prime camping season is upon us, but so are the dog days of summer. When it really gets hot outside you want your RV ready to deal with the heat. Here are some tips for to make your summer RV camping trips more pleasurable.

Strategically park your RV to take advantage of any shade that is available, especially on the side where the refrigerator vent is located. Don't be afraid to ask for a shady site when you check-in at the KOA. This will not only help cool the RV down, but your refrigerator and roof A/C will work much more efficiently.

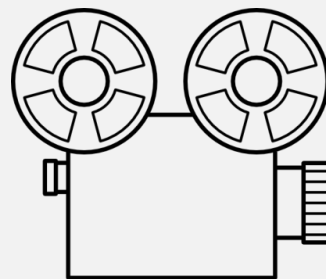
You can also improve your air conditioners efficiency by keeping the A/C filters clean. In most cases you can wash the filters in warm soapy water, rinse thoroughly and allow them to dry before reinstalling. Another option is to clean the filters with a small hand held vacuum cleaner. I recommend you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

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

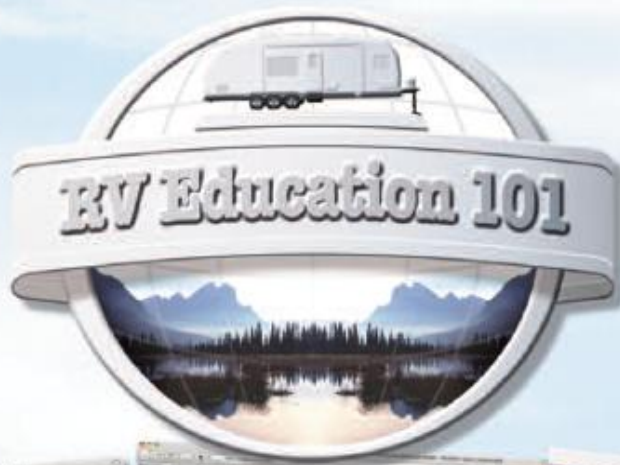
Another ingredient to keeping your RV cool is proper ventilation. Proper ventilation helps prevent excess heat from building up in your RV. You can install vent covers over the roof vents to allow for ventilation even when it's raining outside or install and use power ventilation fans. The more ventilation the better.

A few more tips for keeping cool is to start and run the air conditioner in the morning when its cooler outside, avoid opening the door as much as possible and cook outside rather than inside whenever possible. If all else fails head to the swimming pool at your favorite KOA and get cooled off. Happy Camping

[How to Stay Cool in your RV](#)



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For all your [RV training needs](#) we have you covered



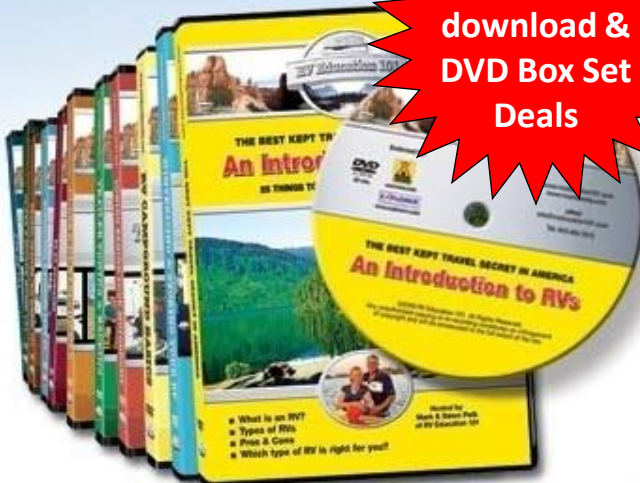


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Our goal with RV Consumer E-Magazine is to provide you with helpful information to make all of your RV experiences more enjoyable. I left my position as an RV Sales and F&I manager in 2000 to start RV Education 101.

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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