



Installing your Big Red Numbers

Welcome: _____ Membership #: _____

Big Red Numbers

Imagine leading a caravan of 63 Airstreams throughout Central America not now, but in 1951-1952. That's what Wally Byam, founder of Airstream, Inc., his future bride Estelle "Stella" Hall and his 12-year old second cousin Dale "Pee Wee" Schwamborn set out to do on December 1, 1951. Without having the benefit of cell phones or GPS to connect with caravan members, Wally assigned big red numbers (sometimes referred to as BRN) which were placed on the front and rear end-cap of the Airstreams – making it easier to keep track of a large group of travelers facing rugged terrain and many weather-related problems. Wally and Stella Byam often traveled at the front of these caravans, easily identifiable by the big red #1 on their Airstream.



For 60+ years the Wally Byam Airstream Club has continued to assign numbers to each of their 7,500+ members around the world. These numbers remain with the owners as long as they maintain their membership in the Club – some of whom choose to display them on their trailers. Each of the red stars on either side of these numbers reflects five years of membership in the Club

Installing Wally Byam Airstream Club **Big Red Numbers** is a simple process. The

Club sends your big red numbers on one sheet, pre-spaced and backed with transfer paper for an easy installation. Don't separate the transfer paper, numbers, and release liner until the instructions tell you. The Club recommends installation of your big red numbers as one sheet each, for front and rear of your Airstream. These instructions are for installation on a clean dry surface. You'll need the following tools and materials before you start:

1. small pan or pail with mild solution of water and dish soap
2. clean washing cloth and drying towel
3. blue tape 3/4" or 1" width
4. china marking pen (grease pencil)
5. sharp scissors
6. plastic squeegee or old credit card for working air bubbles from big red numbers



Your Big Red Numbers Arrive With Three Layers. Keep them together!

1. The top layer is transfer paper, which holds the letters in place for easy installation.
2. The middle layer is the big red numbers.
3. The bottom layer is the release liner which keeps the big red numbers from sticking until you're ready.



2. Prepare Your Big Red Numbers Set for Installation

Place the three layers on a clean, flat surface with the release liner facing down. Trim away excess transfer paper and release liner. You can leave about a 1/4 inch around the sides and bottom of graphic and one inch at the top. Mark the center point on the top edge of the transfer paper with a pen or china marker.



3. Prepare The Surface For Numbers Installation

Clean and dry the exterior surface well with mild dish soap and terry cloth, rubbing with the grain of the panel. A good clean surface is key to successful application of your big red numbers.



4. Locating the Spot For Your Big Red Numbers

Measure your surface area and mark with a spot of blue tape at top or bottom edge the center point of desired location for installation. Place the big red numbers sheet against the surface, with the transfer paper facing you and the release liner facing the Airstream. Line up the center mark of the transfer paper and the marker you placed on the Airstream. Attach with blue tape your big red numbers sheet to the surface in the spot you want it to be in.



5. Start Adhering the Transfer Paper and Numbers to Your Airstream

At each top corner, peel down the release liner from the transfer paper for the first inch or two all the way across. Gently and slowly pull away the transfer paper at a 45° angle to prevent stretching or tearing, while holding the transfer paper and big red numbers away from the Airstream.



6. Pulling the Remaining Release Liner

Continue removing release liner an inch or two at a time while squeegeeing firmly and smoothly downward and outward from top and center of the new areas. The squeegee should stay in direct contact with the transfer paper to prevent air bubbles. Finally remove the release liner entirely and firmly squeegee the big red numbers through the transfer paper, being careful not to dent your Airstream nor tear the transfer paper.



7. Final Step

When finished, very gently peel away the top layer of transfer paper at a 60° angle. Removing the transfer paper too quickly can lift the big red numbers and damage your installation of big red numbers on your Airstream. Congratulations. You did it!

Modern Applications



Don't want to apply your numbers to the Aluminum: Maybe this is not your forever trailer or you don't want to get the ladder out. You can apply your numbers and WBAC emblem to an aluminum panel attached across your rock guard or mount your numbers in the upper center or driver's side of your rock guard. Add your numbers to your back window or rock guard. Applying numbers to the rock guards makes them easy to remove when you get that next trailer.



Removing old numbers: If your Airstream has old numbers to remove, a hair dryer will soften the adhesive and allow them to be peeled off. Don't get anxious, peel carefully, a needle nose pliers is useful to keep from burning your fingers. Aim the dryer right at the old number and try to get it off in one piece. When the numbers are removed, clean area with kerosene or WD-40, wash with soap and water, then dry.



When I was a kid, I would see these Airstreams with Big Red Numbers come through my town and would dream of owning one someday. Today is the someday!!!