

## 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. Your 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.

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".