

B-190 Van History

I recently had a gentleman contact me with a list of questions about the history of the Airstream B -190 vans. He wanted to know how many vans were made and what years etc.

The first year for the B-190 was the 1989 model year and the first van produced (s/n 300000) was released on July 1, of 1988; the B-190 van was produced until August of 1999 (last unit built -s/n 301393).

Total Van population--1393 B-190 vans were produced over the 11 year period.

The vans were 19ft. long and were built on a Ford E350 Cargo van chassis and came standard with a 351 cubic inch engine or the optional 460 cubic inch engine. 1997 model year saw the engine switch to the 6.8 liter Triton V-10 engine as standard equipment and over 20 additional van and floor plan design changes. The B-vans had an over the cab fiberglass top; the interior and furniture were designed in the "Airstream style" of the time period.

Airstream would get back to building "Class B" vans in September of 2003 when they introduced the Interstate Van. We are currently building the Interstate on a Mercedes chassis and are producing approx. 8 vans per week.



1989 B-190



1997 B-190

Air conditioner Filters

One question frequently asked at the recent International Rally was where do I get the new style air conditioner filters for the Dometic Penguin low profile AC bottom?

They can be purchased through an Airstream dealership; ask for Airstream part number 690323-322 (polar white) for the new Dometic Penguin low profile air conditioner bottom.



Removing tree sap on PPG Coated Aluminum (1999 and newer trailers)

Removal of tree sap seems to be a frequent question recently, maybe due to the excessive temperatures.

Tree Sap is commonly found on the sides and roof of trailers that are frequently parked under trees. Regular soap and water or even citrus-based cleaners usually will not remove tree sap that has affixed itself to the exterior surface of your trailer.

Tree sap is not unlike road tar in that it dries very hard and attaches itself to your trailer's finish. Any solvent-based cleaner that you use for road tar should also work for tree sap. The use of light mineral spirits or De-natured Alcohol is acceptable. Apply the solvent and allow it to penetrate or soften the sap; then gently wipe in the direction of the grain.

Another great pine tree sap remover is WD-40 and it is safe on most types of painted surfaces. Its mild solvent properties easily break down sap. Just spray it on and rinse it off with vinegar and water solution then wash your trailer as you normally would.

You may have to repeat these processes based on severity. Do not use excessive force or wipe against the grain of the aluminum as it may scratch the surface.

Always follow up intensive cleaning with a protective paint care product (good non abrasive wax) to add shine and restore protection.

Care of laminated counter tops used in Airstream trailers

Clean countertops every day with a damp, soft cloth. Clean up any spills or moisture as soon as possible to avoid staining.

To clean your laminate countertops use a mild general purpose cleaner (409, Windex Plus, Mr. Clean, etc.) for stains and a more thorough cleaning. Never use steel wool, Scotch Brite or abrasive cleansers on laminate countertops.

Stubborn stains can be removed from countertops using a paste of water and baking soda. Apply the mixture gently on the stain and blot it up, but don't rub it as it is abrasive.

Stubborn stains that resist any of the above cleaning methods may require the use of undiluted household bleach or nail polish remover. Use a cotton ball saturated with bleach or nail polish remover (acetone); gently rub the stain for up to two minutes. Rinse thoroughly with warm water and wipe dry using a soft cloth. This step may be repeated if the stain appears to be going away and the color of the laminate has not been affected.

Regular use of a wax will keep stains from being absorbed into the laminate. Be sure to use a non- abrasive wax.