

Dump Valve Toilet Paper Removal

So your black water dump/slide valve doesn't seem to want to close the whole way. And when you take the sewer cap off in order to attach your sewer hose, you see and smell some foul smelling liquid that falls out. Those are relatively sure signs that you have some toilet paper stuck in the knife valve seat of your black water dump valve.

On older trailers where the sewer came straight out the back of the trailer, but inside the bumper, it was possible to physically clean out the clog. After a thorough dump and washout it was possible to go in with a special bent tool and physically remove the toilet paper. That became impossible when slightly newer trailers came equipped with the sewer coming out the side of the support for the rear bumper. The valve had not moved but now there was a 90degree bend in the sewer supply line to access the bumper support and provide convenience to the customer.

When gray water tanks became mandatory Airstream and other manufacturers installed a single sewer access that dumped black water from one arm of a Y and gray water from the other arm. This was convenient because you could then dump black water and follow with gray soapy water from showers and washing that took the sewer odor out of the hose before storage. Unfortunately the bend in each arm of the Y precludes us from physically removing the toilet paper from the knife valve seat. So what is to be done short of tearing into the plastic pipe?

After a thorough dump and washout keep the black water dump valve open and attach the empty sewer hose. Hold the other end of the empty sewer hose up in the air and pour five gallons of water into it. Add an appropriate amount of Thetford Tissue Digester or any other waste digester you have in storage that is designed for the black water tank. Attach the high end of the sewer hose to a stepladder and give it a day to soak. When soaking is complete hold the high end of the sewer hose and move it up and down to produce an in and out surge of water at the slide valve seat. (If you really want to assure success, do this two or three times during the day of soaking). The combination of the digester and the surging water will clean any toilet paper clog out of the knife valve seat. Finally hold the high end of the sewer hose up as far as it will go and close the black water dump/slide valve. About a gallon of liquid will remain in the hose and must be disposed of if putting the hose away. But the other four gallons will provide a beginning charge, with tissue digester chemicals included, for your next several days of toilet usage.