

## **A question Airstream Customer Service gets asked quite often is, “do I have to keep my Dometic refrigerator level?”**

At one time Dometic supplied bubble levels with all its refrigerators and customers were advised the refrigerator had to be perfectly level or it could lead to the cooling unit boiler to over heat, causing it to crack.

**What happens:** If the refrigerator is run while not leveled for an extended period, the cooling unit water will not flow into the boiler. The refrigerant (coolant mixture) consists of four components: Water, Rust inhibitor powder, hydrogen gas and ammonia gas; when the boiler gets overheated it can bake the rust inhibitor. This can then block the small tube in the boiler and the coolant flow will stop.

If the refrigerator is operated under this condition the boiler tube can get so hot that it will crack open. If this happens a yellowish or greenish powder may be visible around the burner area, indicating that the cooling unit is leaking.

Over the years Dometic made improvements to the refrigerators and the bubble levels went away and the rule of thumb was changed to: must be level or within 3 degrees of being level. We recently spoke with Dometic customer support and they stated that the refrigerator could be operated for short periods of time with out being leveled (overnight) but recommended the refrigerator be leveled if stationary for extended periods of time. Generally, if the rig is level enough to be comfortable to walk around in, then it should be OK for the fridge.

Even though Dometic does not recommend traveling with your refrigerator operating on propane, the refrigerator would not be damaged while you drive because of the constant swaying of your RV.

### **Summary:**

- **Keep as level as possible.**
- **Short periods of operating the refrigerator out of level will not harm the refrigerator.**
- **The more level your refrigerator is, the better it will work as gravity is the primary force that operates inside of the cooling unit.**
- **Leveling your refrigerator can actually help your refrigerator to operate more efficiently.**