

As I am writing this article in August it is very warm here in Jackson Center and over most of the country. A time of year when we run the air conditioner almost non-stop. In my last article I discussed the importance of maintenance of the air conditioner and checking filters, etc. just for the warm days we are experiencing. Now I would like to discuss the importance of inspection of your power cord. During these warm days when you are running the air conditioner and other appliances, the power cord can take a lot of abuse from heat from running so many amps through it. We have also been staying in many different places this summer, so we have been plugging and unplugging this cord many times. That is why it is so important to inspect the power cord and your inlet receptacle for cleanliness, loose pins and cracking in the cord. As we know a loose pin in the plug can cause resistance which can build up heat and eventually lead to melted spots around the pins on the cord or inlet. Below I will show a few pictures of the areas on the cord and inlet to check to make sure it is safe to use. If you see any loose pin connections or small melted areas around the connectors then replace the cord or inlet as soon as possible.



Check for loose pins at the power inlet to make sure they are all tight and show no signs of heat buildup.



Check all the prongs on your power cord to make sure they are all tight and have not melted areas surrounding them.



Check all the female connectors of the power cord to make sure they have no dark spots or melted areas surrounding them.



As you can see this 30 amp power cord had a loose male pin on the plug. Heat had built up and caused it to melt directly around the loose pin.

You will also want to check the hook up at the campgrounds you are staying in. When you plugged your cord in, did you get a tight fit? Did the socket seem worn or loose? This will also cause resistance and let heat buildup in your cord.

Add this to your check list to help prevent problems you may see down the road. If you have a suggestion or topic you would like to see covered in a future article, or have a question just drop me a line at rmarch@airstream.com.

Have a great month!