

Powered Stabilizer Not Working

QUESTION: I am hoping that you might be able to assist us. We have a 2001 70th Anniversary 30' Airstream. One of the rear power stabilizers is not lowering. I looked in our Airstream technical notebook and did not find anything on the operation or repair of the powered stabilizers. We are debating on whether it is a quick fix or one that requires a trip to an RV service shop.

ANSWER: There are two usual failure modes for a non-working stabilizer.

1. Broken power wire (12 volt line) or ground wire
2. Burned out switch

Check the wires first and then check for 12 volts at the switch terminal. If the input voltage is correct, check the output of the switch. The rating for these switches is marginal especially on the older trailers. If you suspect the switch, try a jumper across it. If you have to replace the switch, find a unit that has at least a 20-amp rating. Very often you can smell burnt material on a defective switch.

Some installers use 15 amp rated switches and this is marginal. These are momentary type, which means you have to hold them on for the stabilizer to work.