

# MY ELECTRIC STEPS CLOSE BY THEMSELVES

**PROBLEM:** Every once in a while my electric steps will just decide to close. This has happened with my motorhome parked and the door open. Several times the steps have closed with my wife standing on them while trying to enter the coach. Help!

**ANSWER:** I have run into this problem a number of times. In each case they would close when the RV was parked with the steps in the extended position and the door was either open or closed. There is a magnetic switch mounted in the door frame of your motorhome. On the door is a magnet mounted opposite the switch. When parked, with the door open, the magnetic switch is in its open position. If the engine is not running and the interior override step switch is turned on the steps will be open regardless of the position of the door. If you turn off the override switch and close the door the steps will retract.

What happens is the magnetic switch (normally open) is activated by closing the door that effectively grounds the step circuits and closes the steps. There is a wire in the door frame going from one side of the magnetic switch to ground. What usually happens is the wire from the step circuit board is being grounded through some means other than the magnetic switch. Usually, the problem is one of the rivets that are used to mount the interior door frame cover has pierced the step wire and is intermittently grounding the circuit board. This is effectively bypassing the magnetic switch and telling the steps to close.

You can drill out all of the rivets and attempt to find the one causing the short. Or you can do it the easy way by cutting the wire and running a new one through the frame. Remove the magnetic door switch (this is either a pry-out or remove the screws) so you can get to the wires that are attached by mounting screws. Under the frame you will see two wires, one going to ground and one going to the covered circuit board mounted underneath the top step. This is usually a #16 gauge brown wire. Run a new wire through the magnetic switch hole and fish it down the frame. The easy way to do this is to remove the hot wire from the switch and securely tape it to a new wire of the same size. Pull the old wire down the frame with the new one attached. Cut the old wire off and, using a butt connector, attach the new wire to the step circuit board wire. If the old wire will not move because it is being held in place by a door rivet just cut the ends off and leave it in the frame. In this case use a wire coat hanger and fish the new wire through.