

## **Auto Transformers**

I am always getting questions about whether this is needed for camping and worth the cost. What this device does is automatically increase the A/C voltage about 10% if it is below a level that could adversely affect some of your RV appliances. This increase is also turned off if the voltage rises to a safe value. Lighting, water heater, power jacks, propane furnace, electric heaters are not usually damaged by low A/C voltage. Air conditioners and microwaves, however, can be seriously damaged by low voltage. This is particularly true for the air conditioning compressor. When the voltage is low then motors will require more current and run slow thus increasing heat build up. If you are in a campground with poor wiring then problems can occur if you don't monitor the A/C voltage. I have only run into this once in my camping adventures and in that case we turned off the air conditioner and limited our current draw. The auto transformer will boost your voltage and allow you to draw more current to safely run your appliances. However, it will further reduce the voltage of your neighbors. Unless you regularly camp for long periods of time in poorly wired campgrounds, especially during the summer months, I think the cost benefit for an auto transformer is marginal.