

Hot Topic

What are the normal Operating Temperatures for Dexter Axle Components and Assemblies? This is a question that we have asked Dexter to help address due to the volume of questions we receive in Airstream Customer Support on this topic. We are contacted by owners that indicated that their brakes are hot or very warm, is this normal or do I have a problem?

Brake Drums and Shoes: The function of brakes is to convert the kinetic and potential energy of the vehicle to heat generated by the rubbing friction of the brake linings against the brake drum or rotor. Normal operating temperatures for most drum brakes range from 150 degrees F. to 400 degrees F. Temperatures can exceed 600 degrees F. during certain stopping conditions although the braking effectiveness is considerably reduced at these elevated temperatures. Temperatures above approximately 650 degrees F. may damage brake components and brake drums. Disk brakes may operate up to about 1600 degrees F. without damage. Most people find 150 degrees F. too hot to touch comfortably. Do not touch brake drums or brake components immediately after stopping the vehicle. Severe burns may occur.

Bearings: Tapered roller bearings can withstand considerable temperature without damage. The bearing lubricant generally cannot. Temperatures in excess of about 200 degrees F. (measured at the outside of the hub.) may indicate a bearing or bearing lubrication problem. Temperatures in the range of 140 degrees F. to 175 degrees F. are considered normal. Use extreme caution when attempting to determine hub temperature. Normal bearing operation temperatures may cause the hub to be too hot to touch comfortably. The above information courtesy of Dexter Axle Engineering.