

## **SD-20 and stainless steel cleaner polish to remove bugs**

I just want to start by thanking everyone that stopped by the Airstream store at the International Rally at Bozeman, MT. You kept our service techs and store personnel busy; I believe for the most part everyone left happy. Thanks again!

It was another typical Rally with temperatures reaching into the 90s; even though it was a dry heat! Even though numbers for this year's Rally was less than in the past the spirit was still there; people still want to enjoy the Airstream way of life. Looking for what is over the next hill.

I thought that I would address a topic that I became personally involved with at the Rally—removing bugs. Several of the trailers that were in the sales display were shipped to Bozeman from the factory in Jackson Center; when they arrived it became apparent that the front of the trailer had become the grave yard for thousands of bugs. They weren't all red blooded either, I might add.

The fronts of the trailers were almost solid bugs; segments, tinted window stone guards, and wrap protectors. I knew I had to get to the task of removing them before they became etched in the finish forever.

We currently use a product in our shop called SD-20 by Spartan Products, it is an all purpose cleaner degreaser and works on just about any tough job you may have from cleaning tires to removing finger prints. SD-20'S clinging foam penetrates and breaks down dirt, grease, and tough soil. SD-20 cleans by "chemical action" rather than physical action and contains no harsh caustics or abrasives to scratch or harm washable surfaces. I have found that SD-20 in combination with a Micro Fiber towel (the very fine fiber) is a great product for removing bugs from the exterior of trailers as well as Motorhomes. Just make sure your Airstream is in the shade, then wet down the trailer if you have access to some water, apply the SD-20 starting at the top and work your way down. As soon as you apply the SD-20 you can see the foaming action starting to dissolve and loosen the bugs. It can be used on the tinted window protectors also, you will notice after you finish removing the bugs there will be a slight film or haze that can easily be removed with a dry towel. On the stainless steel wrap protectors I like to use Spartan stainless steel cleaner and polish to remove bugs and provide a protective film. Even with the use of these products, the removal required some effort on my part. I did receive a lot of encouragement and offers from fellow Airstreamers allowing me to clean their rig when I was finished with the sales display!

Airstream

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**"The Three Amigos"**

**The above products can be purchased through the Airstream on line store at [www.airstream.com](http://www.airstream.com)**

**SD-20 and Stainless Steel Cleaner/Polish** are products of Spartan Chemical Company,  
Inc 1110 Spartan Drive Maumee, OH 43537---- Product/Technical  
Information 1-(800)-537-8990  
Medical Emergency1-(888)-314-6171 (24 hours) Always read and follow directions

The key to removing bugs from your trailer or motorhome starts with prevention.

First only travel in the winter (just kidding).

Keep your vehicle clean and keep it waxed.

You should at the very least apply a coat of wax (Walbernize) to your entire rig before heading out on any spring or summer trip. It would be advisable to apply a second application if you have the time to the front end of your trailer or motorhome. Upon arrival at your destination assess the severity of the bug build up and remove as soon as possible; carry a small spray bottle with soap and water or can of SD-20 and cloth so you can remove any smaller groups of the suicide bombers.

Bugs have a high acidity level and will start etching themselves into your coating so the earlier (within the first 48 hrs is recommendation by paint specialists) the removal the better. There are also products on the market that are designed specifically to repel bugs, bird droppings, brake dust and good old dirt. They are high gloss polymer finishes and are supposed to be far superior to any wax products; one such product is called RejeX manufactured by Corrosion Technologies Corp., Dallas Texas. I have recently started using this on my truck and it seems to be working well. If you choose to use any degreaser type product on your Airstream, including detergents such as Dawn, you will need to wax the areas you used these products on as they will remove the wax protection.

Always be gentle when removing the bugs so not to scratch the finish, on trailers always go with the grain of the metal.

There are many products, home brews and equipment to remove bugs. It is said that cooking oil will soften and remove bugs; some have tried applying PAM non-stick spray to chrome bumpers and mirrors. Panty hose are supposed to be better than a bug sponge in assisting bug removal. Using a wet fabric softener (dryer) sheet is supposed to easily remove bugs from painted surfaces. I am sure there are many more creative ways to attack the bug issue on your Airstream.

I would love to hear any of your ideas on this topic!

Just In Passing---Bumper Stickers

My kid beat up your honor student.

Procrastinators unite!...Tomorrow.

Keep honking, I'm reloading.

Gun control—Hitting what your aiming at.

Real men don't ask for directions.

If ignorance is bliss, why aren't a lot more people happy?

If you can read this Thank a Teacher, since it is in English Thank a Solider.

Have a great month and we'll see you on down the road.