

The exterior of our rigs are constructed of varied materials from roof to body to chassis and all are exposed to the natural elements which differ geographically. All of this exterior exposure faces the strong forces of chemical condensation on a daily basis. The condensate is a change from vapor to liquid, a chemical reaction. During layovers or long nonuse periods of time, our rigs are accumulating daily layers of the condensate which chemically react to the protective materials used by the RV manufacturer. My visit to the factory revealed that the engineering staff at Airstream has exterior protection high on their development list. That does not deter the fact that we, as owners of these products, must also constantly strive to further protect our rig exteriors from these natural forces. My vintage '93 Airstream has enjoyed the layover periods under the protection of a metal roofed carport. That, together with periodic washings and wipe down commercial polishes, has served to preserve and protect the exterior surfaces to my advantage. My choice of exterior protection is a product called "WALBERIZE", extensively to protect aluminum skin aircraft. It is equally useful on the roof surfaces and results in a protective coating that can last six months. Standard carports and garages are not sized to accommodate our rigs, but metal carports and barn type storages, if available, are also recommended. Finally, you can extend the life of your rig according to the extent of care you pursue.