

Airstream Door Sag

If your Airstream trailer or motorhome is more than a few years old, you may find yourself having to slam the door to make it close tightly. If that description fits you, look at the door side of your Airstream. If the horizontal stripe on the door doesn't match up with the same stripe on the side of the Airstream, you may have the affliction known as *Door Sag*.

Go to the local hardware store or home improvement store and buy a packet of ¼ inch nylon washers. These are about an eighth of an inch thick and have a ¼ inch hole in the middle. Take two out of the packet and save the rest for another year.

Using electrician's "diagonal cutters" or other cutters that are handy, clip out a wedge from each of the two washers. The wedge should be one-quarter of the washer; not more. A smaller wedge will work but is harder to install.

Now get a friend to help you, and open the Airstream door. Have your friend lift the door by pulling straight up on it from the bottom. Sometimes it helps to swing the door on its hinges a little while lifting. You should find that a space has appeared between the part of the door hinge that is attached to the door and the part that is attached to the Airstream, at the bottom of the hinge.

Slide the clipped nylon washer into that space. You may have to push it in with a flat-blade screwdriver. Make it go all the way in, so that the hole fits around the hinge pin and the washer is between the parts of the door hinge.

Now let your friend relax while you swing the door on its hinges. It should open and close easily, without slamming or pressing hard on it. And the horizontal stripe on the door should line up with the horizontal stripe on the side of the Airstream much more closely than before. You have solved the problem for about a year. The nylon washers will wear and get thinner as you use the door, so you should check again next year to see if you need to repeat the process.