

## **Hinges, Bearings, Steps**

Every year I recommend cleaning all the external compartment hinges on the RV and then lubricating them. Use WD- 40 for the cleaner and then dry the hinge with paper towel. Then use a small amount of Silicon spray on all of the metal surfaces that move. You should include the metal bearing surfaces on all of your awnings. Check the Manufacturers recommendations on slide outs and follow them exactly. Failure to do this can easily result in troubles on the road and major expenditures. Clean, not only looks better but it also works better, for a much longer time. These surfaces should be cleaned every year as part of de-winterizing. Don't forget the awnings. All of the moving parts and bearing should be cleaned, if needed, and covered with a light coating of Silicon spray. Check the locking wheels and make sure the threads are clean and lubed.

For some bearing surfaces you should have a spray can of grease. Kwikol makes a good product for their steps. This is sprayed on every bearing and moving joint. This is particularly true for electric steps but don't neglect the mechanical steps. If there is a build up of dirt and grease then clean the joint first with WD-40, wipe off any excess, let it dry and then apply the lubricant. Corrosion Pro Lubrimatec is a water resistant spray grease that can be obtained at Auto and Marine supply stores. This is less expensive than the Kwikol spray but does the job very nicely.

You should also have a spray can of PB Blaster, which is used to free up rusted Bolts. This should be used before you try to loosen a rusted bolt. Don't ruin the bolt or screw head first then try to dissolve the rust. Be patient; use the Blaster on a rusted fitting before you try to remove it. If it still won't budge you may need several applications before the fitting will get loose. See your Auto and Marine supply stores.