

Maintenance of Steel and Aluminum steps

Airstream first add swing down steel steps (“Glide-A-Rode”) to its 1955 model year trailers. With the development of the swing down step we were able to put our little step stools away for good.



Early Steel steps

Steps have improved over the years with the addition of the Aluminum fold out step (1972) along with improved steel steps such as the ones we are currently using. But no matter what steps you have on your Airstream they will all need some TLC from time to time. Steps are for the most part maintenance free—as long as you remember to stow them before leaving your camp site.

Steel Hickory Springs Step

The steel steps used on current trailers are manufactured by Hickory Springs. They come in either single or double step models.



While there are not any major replaceable parts on the steel steps proper care and maintenance will keep them working for many years.

Lubrication of Hinge Points

1. Remove all dirt and debris from hinge areas.
2. Lubricate hinge areas in between the sheet metal portions of the steps.
 - A. Use a dry lubricant such as Dri-Slide or silicone. Grease will attract dirt and possibly cause damage to the hinge areas. (Dirt or sand stuck in the grease acts as an abrasive)

Caution!! When Lubricating steps, make sure you do not let lubricant contact the step or tread surfaces.

It could make step slippery resulting in personal injury.

Airstream • 937-596-6111 Scratches or nicks

1. Remove any loose or chipped paint in scratched area.
2. Apply primer to scratch.
3. Paint primed area with quality high gloss paint

Damage

1. Inspect your step for damage to metal parts and attaching points
2. Inspect step tread for wear—replace if worn.

3. Make sure step is tight to chassis mounting brackets

Aluminum Steps----Airstream started using the single & double Aluminum fold out steps in 1972



Aluminum Fold-Out Step Maintenance

Lubricate hinge points

1. Remove all dirt and debris from hinge areas
2. Lubricate pivot points

A .Use a dry lubricant such as Dri-Slide or silicone. Grease will attract dirt and possibly cause damage to the hinge areas. (Dirt or sand stuck in the grease acts as an abrasive)

Inspecting step

1. Inspect your step for damage to aluminum arms (move freely, no binding)
2. Make sure all screws and bolts are tight (you can use Loc-Tite if they become loose)
3. Step latches securely in outrigger notches. Notches can become worn if not properly engaged.
4. Inspect step tread for wear—replace if worn.

The aluminum step is different from the steel steps in that all parts are replaceable if damaged. Replacement parts can be purchased through your Airstream Dealer.

Oops! Stuff happens

Always make sure your steps are up before pulling away from campsite!
Getting your step repaired as soon as possible will help avoid personal injury!!!!

Have a great month
and we will see you
on down the road!

