

Rub rail & Belt line inserts

The following is based on some experiences with a gentleman's 2006 Airstream Classic.

Many of us who do not have the option of covered storage for our trailers have parts on the exterior of our coaches whose lifespan have expired.

The chrome insert molding in the beltline and lower rub rail will eventually sunburn and turn the surface white or cause the clear covering to wrinkle.

If, after several attempts to restore the chrome finish have proved unsuccessful, it will become necessary to replace the insert.



The insert can be purchased through your Airstream dealer. Rub rail insert PN: 201763-100
Belt line insert PN: 201912

The insert has a high strength adhesive commonly used to secure trim in the automotive industry. Removal of the old insert is relatively simple. Once you pry an end loose, it can be simply be pulled off the coach.

Cleaning the old adhesive should be done using a rag and denatured alcohol or equivalent. Be sure that whatever solvent you use does not leave a residue (like Goo Gone) as this will not allow the insert adhesive to fully adhere and it will eventually fail. (Lesson learned). Alcohol works well and leaves no oily residue. There also are some adhesive primers that can be purchased that will aid in getting the inserts to adhere to the metal. Airstream PN: 365249

Using the old insert, determine the approximate length with a little extra to make sure you have enough. Metal shears or other straight edge cutter are best used to cut the insert. Simply peel the protective strip off and press the insert into the molding. Several of the insert runs are quite long so a helping hand will be useful.