

Subject: *SPRINGTIME SEALANT CHECK*

Hello! After many conversations over time with many owners, we have found that there are repairs that can be tended to by the owner and save him/herself money. When we fall in love with camping and purchase an RV, we forget that it is a piece of equipment that needs tending. Later (sometimes too late) we realize we did not receive the complete information needed to do the maintenance required. Factories have many recommendations for follow-up care that can be forgotten or misunderstood. Many owners are under the assumption that a rubber roof is maintenance free. A rubber roof requires the same amount of attention and sealants that any other roof materials do. Due to our conversations, we have chosen to reach out and try to help our fellow campers in the care and possible repair of their beloved R.V.'s.

Here we go!

Spring is the time of year that we need to be thinking of preparing for the upcoming months of travel, camping, and vacationing. Before we begin packing our first task is to walk out and take a look at what has been happening during the long winter months. Many owners cover their R.V.'s with a tarp. You would think that this would help but actually, it can create more damage. Commercial manufacturers have designed special covers that are soft, breathable and will suit your needs.

Spring inevitably brings rain and wind. Two of mother natures beautiful culprits that like to find their way into your R.V. and wreak havoc! Nevertheless, you can be one-step ahead of her and be prepared.

Water damage is one of the most expensive and intrusive types of damage. Usually, by the time you see the stains on the walls, drips from the ceiling or ripples in the paneling we have a good size problem to deal with. It only takes a pinhole for water to find its way in and travel. The area between walls can trap water in and will not allow the water to dry. Wet walls and ceilings can lead to rot and mold. These are fixable yet depending on the size and location can be costly repairs. All makes and models are susceptible to water damage. Specific areas seem to be around clearance lights, windows and moldings. We have noticed that the bunk areas of Class C vehicles are particularly affected. Damage can be seen anywhere even as delamination and bubbling on the outside skin. These are just a few areas of concern.

Fear not, there is a good side to water damage...sealant checks! It is recommended to have a sealant check done at least twice a year. Sealant checks are crucial to saving yourself from a repair bill and one that you can do. Start on the roof and inspect the edges along the molding, edges to hardware to the inside of the R.V. (air conditioner, antenna etc.) Examine the condition of the sealant. Look for spots that have pulled away, dried, cracked or even missing. Work your way down and around the R.V. checking for similar wear and tear. Check each edge around the windows and rubber gaskets, which can dry out and leak. Vents to the outside can become loose, which opens areas for water to get in. Be sure to make a list of the areas that you find so upon repair you do not miss one. At first, this information may seem overwhelming and time consuming. It can be. However, your attention to this now will save you a lot of time and money down the road. Camping is fun and we all need to "get away" to relax. Extend that relaxation by rewarding yourself with a sense of confidence from having seen to the needs of your R.V.

Our shop does a **sealant inspection free of charge** and would be more than glad to help.

Enjoy this upcoming season of events and don't hesitate to give us a call.

Until next time! Enjoy and safe traveling!