

## How to Use this Maintenance Essentials Kit

This kit contains small items that solve and prevent big problems, like rainwater leaks, hose leaks, corrosion, blown fuses, and a bathroom door handle that's fallen off. Keep it in the Airstream for quick fixes on the road.

- 1. Boeshield T-9.** This is an excellent lubricant for metal surfaces. Use it on entry door hinges, entry step hinges, vent fan lift arms, etc. to eliminate squeaks and sticky moving parts. Boeshield dries and leaves a durable waxy film. It won't attract dirt. It's also ideal for treating small areas of the Airstream's aluminum skin where the clear coat has been scratched or cut. The film left by Boeshield will help seal the damage and reduce filiform corrosion. **To use:** Drip Boeshield T-9 on hinges, or put it on a cloth and wipe surfaces.
- 2. Aerospace 303 Protectant.** Use this on rubber parts like the seals on windows, doors, and vent fans, to prevent sticking. Aerospace 303 leaves a UV-blocking film to prevent damage from the sun. **To use:** Clean the surface with a damp rag, then spray Aerospace 303 on a clean cloth and wipe the rubber seal.
- 3. Fuses and fuse puller.** There are four color coded blade fuses in this kit: RED is 10 amp, BLUE is 15 amp, YELLOW is 20 amp, and GREEN is 30 amp. Always replace a blown fuse with the same rating. You can find additional fuses at any auto parts store, but be sure they are the same physical size. **To install:** Remove the spent fuse with the yellow plastic fuse puller tool in this kit, and replace it with a fuse of the same rating.
- 4. Allen wrenches (2mm and 2.5mm sizes).** The bathroom door handle, towel bars, and other wall-mounted items are often fastened with little "Allen screws" that sometimes vibrate loose. If you need to re-mount one of these items, you will likely need one of these Allen wrenches. To prevent it from coming loose again, see item 8 (blue thread locker) as well. **To use:** Insert the Allen wrench into the set screw and turn until tight.
- 5. Silicone rubber hose washer.** This washer goes in the end of your fresh water hose, replacing any previous washers that may have worn out. If your hose always drips at the end, try replacing the washer. This high-quality washer is drinking water safe and will last for the life of the hose. **To install:** Remove the rubber hose washer from the end of your hose and replace it with this fresh one.
- 6. Teflon tape (roll).** Use this to prevent leaks on threaded fittings, whether water or gas plumbing. This tape is rated for use with LP (propane gas). **To use:** Wrap the tape tightly around the threads 3-4 times, then re-assemble.
- 7. Philips screws, #8 size (5/8" and 1" lengths).** These can replace screws commonly used on the window and door trim of your Airstream, and some pieces of interior furniture. Keep them on board in case a screw comes out and disappears, or if you need to replace a screw with a longer one. **To use:** Install the screw where one is missing, using a Philips screwdriver.
- 8. Blue thread locker.** If you have a screw of any type that keeps vibrating loose, put a single drop of this blue liquid on the screw's threads. It is a mild adhesive that will hold the screw in place, if the screw hole has not been enlarged. **To use:** Drop a few drops of thread locker into the screw hole and reinstall the screw. If the screw hole in wood has been enlarged so that the screw won't stay, try filling the hole with a matchstick and a drop of wood glue before re-installing the screw.
- 9. Cabinet latch (2).** If a drawer or a cabinet door in your late model Airstream refuses to close fully, the latch that holds it may have snapped into the "locked" position prematurely. You can reset the latch with a screwdriver, by inserting the screwdriver into the space behind the snap and carefully prying to pop it back out. If the snap keeps popping shut by itself, you should replace it with this identical spare. **To install:** Remove the failed latch with a Phillips screwdriver and replace with this one. **Need additional latches?** Get them at the **AIR GEAR** store: **AIRGEAR.STORE**.
- 10. Spray bottle.** Use this to test for a propane gas leak. **To use:** Fill the bottle with water and a few drops of dish soap. Turn the gas on and spray the soapy water at propane connections you wish to test. Look at all sides of each connection. Continuous bubbling in one spot indicates a gas leak.

**TIP:** If you often have problems with your water hose dripping, it may be because the hose threads have stretched or bent a little. In that case the best choice is to replace the hose. Our *Ultimate RV Water Hose* will last much longer. You'll find it at the **AIR GEAR** store, **AIRGEAR.STORE**.

**11. Burnishing tool, DeOxit, brass brush, and dielectric grease.** These four tools will help you keep electrical contacts free of corrosion. **To use:**

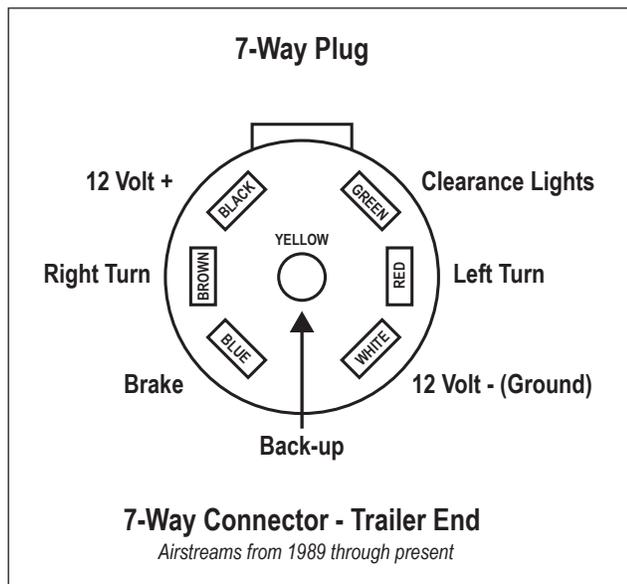
- Apply a small droplet (a little goes a long way) of the DeOxit contact cleaner on the electrical contact you wish to clean.
- With the burnishing tool or the brass brush, gently scrub the contact until the metal has turned from dull green-brown or black, to a brighter yellow/brown. You'll notice some of the corrosion on your burnishing tool. You can clean that up with a rag.
- Once the contacts are clean, apply a tiny smear of the dielectric grease, to lubricate and protect the contacts. Plug in the cord once or twice to spread the grease around.

## ABOUT THE AC ELECTRICAL INLET

We strongly recommend that you also clean the connectors on the AC ("shore power") electrical inlet, which is usually located on the side of the Airstream. **Dark corrosion can be a serious problem here, since it leads to overheating and possibly melting of the plug.**

Cleaning is done exactly the same way as for the 7-way plug.

Plan to do both of these simple cleaning jobs at least once a year as preventative maintenance. It takes just a few minutes.



## ABOUT THE 7-WAY TRAILER PLUG

The 7-way cord contains all the wires needed for the trailer's lights (clearance, brake, turn), brakes, and power to keep the battery charged while towing. All Airstreams since 1989 have used the same wire arrangement, shown in the diagram. Earlier trailers may have different wiring, but typically they have long since been rewired to fit modern tow vehicles.

If your tow vehicle complained that some of the trailer lights or brakes weren't working, doing the corrosion removal procedure described above (#11) will resolve the most common cause of the problem.