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WE CAN’T GUARANTEE THE SUN WILL SHINE, GEYSERS WILL SPOUT OR LEAVES WILL TURN GOLDEN-RED FOR YOU.

BUT IF YOUR RV BREAKS, YOU WON’T PAY TO FIX IT. GUARANTEED.

Click here for more information on the Good Sam Extended Service Plan

Eliminate worry about major repair expenses with an investment in Good Sam Extended Service Plan (ESP). With ESP, if you experience a breakdown, you simply call us. We will direct you to our closest preferred service provider. You can also choose to take it to your repair facility of choice. Good Sam will pay the facility directly, and ensure that the appropriate repairs are made. With coverage that complies with stringent insurance regulations, you can be assured Good Sam will be there when you need it. Find out more and get a free quote online at GoodSamESP.com or call 877-273-5860. It’s guaranteed peace of mind.

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Chances are your first experience with this thing called RVing was a camping trip with your new or used RV, and a very basic RV starter kit. It’s quite possible the sewer hose in the kit was not long enough to reach the sewer drain at the campground, and/or the 1-roll of toilet paper and 2-packets of dry holding tank treatments didn’t go very far.

As you gain experience you discover new and innovative RV products and accessories that help enhance your RV experiences.

This issue of RV Consumer Magazine is dedicated to some of those cool RV products that help make our camping experiences more fun and less stressful.

Have a great 4th of July!

Mark

www.rveducation101.com
www.rvconsumer.com

“Great RV products result in great RV camping trips.” ~ Mark Polk
Our brand new digital RV Product Catalog puts all of our RV training products in one place, and we separate which products apply to which type of RV. For example if you own a travel trailer you can browse through the single DVD titles or go directly to the DVD value sets that apply specifically to travel trailers. This helps accomplish two things; it eliminates the guess work as to which DVD titles go together, and it saves the RV consumer a significant amount of money with our DVD box set discounts. Our goal at RV Education 101 is simple, to help RV owners until they are comfortable operating and using their RV and to make their entire RV experience safe, fun and stress free. Browse our RV Product Catalog now.
I mentioned in my editorial that new and innovative RV products and accessories can help enhance your RV experiences. Each year I attend several RV shows. These shows include the two largest RV trade shows in the country held in Hershey, Pa. and Louisville, Ky. I spend a good deal of time checking out the tried and true RV products, and new RV products being introduced to the marketplace. I always discover smart, innovative products designed to make RVing easier and more enjoyable.

This issue of RV Consumer Magazine will feature RV products that do just that. I have personally used many of the featured products, and can see the value other products have to offer RV owners, even though I have not personally used them.

So let’s not waste any more time. Have fun checking out what I consider to be RV products for today’s RVer.
If you like an ice cold drink on a hot summer day you’ll absolutely love this product.

If your RV refrigerator doesn’t have an ice maker feature, or if you just want instant access to ice, whether at home or on the go this is the product for you. It doesn’t get easier than this, just add water and within 15 minutes you have a basket full of ice. Dometic portable ice makers are the perfect appliance for entertaining and fun while at home or on the go.

For more information on these portable ice makers take a minute to visit [Dometic](http://www.rvconsumer.com)
If you’ve been Rving for awhile you know space in an RV is at a premium. Standard upright vacuum cleaners are too bulky for small spaces. That’s what I like about this next product, the Dirt Devil CV 1500 is the most complete and powerful cleaning system in one box.
Have you ever noticed how difficult it can be to negotiate RV steps while trying to open the entry door when your hands are full? How about small children going in and out, who can barely reach the door handle on their tiptoes?

The EZ Open RV door handle by Stromberg Carlson Products solves the problem, making it safer and easier for everybody to enter the RV.

Remember, safe RVing is fun RVing!
The Global Positioning System or GPS was invented by the U.S. Department of Defense. The cost for GPS research and development was excessive, but the nuclear threat at the time outweighed the cost. Twelve billion dollars later the development and deployment of strategically placed satellites and ground stations made calculating geographical positions with pinpoint accuracy easy.

The rest, as the saying goes, is history. For the past decade and a half we have enjoyed the features and benefits Global Positioning Systems have to offer. You simply punch in an address and like magic the small box guides you to your destination. GPS technology made finding travel destinations easy for automobile owners, but RV owners still had real-world concerns about using this technology.

Driving or towing an RV can be a white knuckle experience when the GPS leads you to an overpass that is too low, a bridge not rated for the weight or a residential neighborhood with low hanging tree branches. Several years ago I remember searching for a GPS that was compatible with larger and heavier RVs. That search lead me to a GPS designed for professional truck drivers. It did a good job, but it was still missing features RV owners would like to have in a GPS unit.

Eventually I started seeing some GPS units designed specifically for use with RVs and decided it was time to upgrade my truck driving GPS model. Having some experience with non-RV GPS models there were some specific features and benefits I wanted in an RV GPS.

RVs are longer, taller and heavier than your average automobile, and a GPS designed for automobiles could get the RV owner in some challenging predicaments.
My RV GPS Criteria:

1) A screen display large enough to see while traveling down the road.
2) A non-glare screen. Lots of GPS displays are difficult to see because of the glare on the screen.
3) The option to select settings for an RV or for everyday automobile use.
4) A GPS that can be updated with current map data. I have owned GPS units that were basically worthless in a couple of years because you could not update the system with current data.
5) A GPS with RV specific tools like Points of Interest, RV campground locator, warnings, hazards and restrictions, RV friendly exits and RV trip planning features. With my list of criteria the search was on for a GPS unit designed with RVs in mind. I quickly discovered several very reputable GPS manufacturers offering GPS units with RV features.

Magellan offers the RoadMate GPS for RVs. The RoadMate is available in several models offering various levels of RV related features. The features I like include:

1) A 7-inch touch screen display
2) Free lifetime map and traffic alert updates
3) The Good Sam Club Trailer Life directory. This directory is a great resource for the RV owner.
4) Customizable truck/RV routes
5) Bluetooth enabled, turns your GPS into a hands-free speaker phone.
6) Turn by turn spoken directions
7) RV campground information and RV POIs.

Prices for the Magellan RoadMate models range from $299.99-$399.99

Garmin offers the RV760LMT RV GPS

Features I like on the Garmin RV760LMT GPS include:

1) Easy to read 7” display
2) Customized RV routing¹ for lower 48 states and Canada
3) America’s RV Parks & services Directory
4) RV trip planning and sharing
5) Lifetime map and traffic updates
6) Wireless backup camera compatible
7) Garmin Real Directions
8) Wireless Backup camera compatible

The Garmin RV760LMT is priced at $399.99
**Rand McNally offers** the RVND 5510 & 7710 RV models and the latest RVND 7720LM RV GPS model. The **Rand McNally RV GPS** features I like are:

1) The large 7-inch screen that adjusts for low and strong light.
2) The unit lets you choose from 11 different RV types, and can be switched to car mode for everyday use too.
3) Lifetime map updates using the Rand McNally dock software portal for PC and Mac users.
4) Routes based on legal and physical restrictions, such as low bridges and roads with weight limits
5) Packed with RV specific tools like Junction View with lane assist, warnings for speed limit changes and other potential hazards, Exits Quick View featuring RV parking and amenities available at exits, RV maintenance logs, and RV safety checklists featuring pre-departure and campground set up checks. It also offers a quick planner to calculate time, distance and cost for trips, pet-friendly locations and there is an address book.
6) Wi-Fi connectivity, enabling transmission and display of weather and other real-time information. This includes current and forecasted weather information for your current location, your destination, and anywhere along your route. The live map overlays display other important information for RV owners like wind speed and precipitation. All of these weather related features are important when making RV travel plan decisions.
7) A fuel log so you can track your fuel purchases, including where it was purchased, gallons and total cost and it can be organized by date or state.
8) A video input that can be used to connect to a back-up or rear view camera.
9) Trip planning features include trip content featuring images and videos, multi-stop trip planning, millions of POIs including RV services, dump station location, thousands of RV parks and campgrounds, Woodall campground information and text to speech descriptions as you drive.
10) Rand McNally Editor’s Picks, including Best of the Road® 3-4-day adventures, regional trips, scenic tours, weekend getaways

Prices for RVND RV GPS models range from $149.99-$349.99

Regardless of the GPS unit you decide on the good news is there are finally some real RV GPS units to choose from. Do your research and decide which GPS best suits your specific needs and then head to your favorite camping destination using your brand new GPS. ~ RV101
**Question:** What do you do when you get a puncture or tear in your RV roof when you’re away from home?

**Answer:** Always take a Diseal patch or RV roof repair tape by Dicor Products with you on RV trips. This is a quick and easy way to repair your RV roof.

Dicor Products offers RV roof repair products for EPDM rubber, TPO, fiberglass, plastic, wood, steel and aluminum RV roof products.

Add the roof patch or repair tape to your RV toolbox.
Protect and accessorize your RV awning with these products by Valterra and Dometic.

First up are some RV awning accessories by Valterra Products LLC like the RV Twin Trak, Awning Buddy and Happy Hook awning tie-downs.

Discover some great RV awning products designed to help protect your awnings and make your camping trips more enjoyable.

Play Video

More awning products
Add Dometic LED light strips to your RV awning, steps, hatches and more, and keep enjoying your RV after the sun goes down. Most of these light strips come with a remote control and dimmer features, and some even let you control the color of the lights! Add some light and some fun to your RV today!

Protect your RV slide-outs, and your investment, using Dometic slide toppers. A slide topper protects your RVs interior, protects slide out seals and gaskets and increases the value of your RV. Dometic offers a complete line of slide toppers to suit your specific needs and application.
99% of our customers would recommend the Equal-i-zer® hitch to their friends. Why? Because Equal-i-zer hitch’s superior sway control performance helps you reach your destination safely. Don’t trust your safety to a lesser hitch. Get the peace of mind that comes from towing with the best Integrated Sway ControlTM hitch available. Get The Original Equal-i-zer Sway Control Hitch.

For over 50 years the Equal-i-zer® hitch has been providing safe towing for families.

The Equal-i-zer hitch’s superior design makes it the best performing sway control hitch on the market. Four steel on steel friction points (known as 4-Point Sway Control™) and excellent weight distribution – provide unmatched resistance to your trailer’s attempts to sway. That’s the premium performance that keeps families safe, and the premium performance that keeps owners recommending the Equal-i-zer hitch to their friends.

Tell all of your friends.

“Last year I moved cross-country...across Alaska...to the East coast. [The Equal-i-zer hitch] performed flawlessly through the mountains, on the open road...and even in the tightest of campsites. I have told all my friends they need this hitch for their towing.”

- Devin T., Georgia

Get Superior Sway Control - Get the Original Equal-i-zer® Sway Control Hitch.
Make hitching and unhitching a snap with the **Fastway Flip Jack**.

The Flip Jack drops into place automatically when you extend your trailer jack, and tucks up out of the way automatically when you retract the trailer jack.
If you ever towed a trailer before you have probably walked into the ball mount and hurt your shin at least once. I know I have, and here is what Progress Mfg. Sales Manager, Rich Elliott had to say about it, “We’ve all unfortunately hit our shins on a trailer hitch before and it’s not a pleasant experience. This product protects your shins from pain.”

**New Fastway Product Protects Shins and Trailer Harness**

*Provo, Utah – June 2013* – Fastway Trailer Products introduces its dual purpose shin guard. This handy sleeve protects customers from banging their shins against a ball mount, and it protects the trailer wiring harness from dragging on the ground.

The Fastway shin guard also protects the wiring harness by utilizing an included rubber tether that loops around the harness, lifting it off the ground and out of harm’s way.

The Shin Guard is fast and easy to install because there is no need to remove the hitch ball. Simply slide the Shin Guard down over the top of the ball, stretch the bottom down around the nut, and that’s it. The Shin Guard fits both 2-5/6" and 2" hitch balls on ball mounts up to 2-1/2" wide, and is available in three colors: black, orange or yellow.

The new [Fastway Shin Guard](#) is currently available through dealerships serving the towing industry throughout the United States and Canada.

For more information about Fastway Trailer Products visit [www.FastwayTrailer.com](http://www.FastwayTrailer.com)
RV Roof Inspections
Cleaning the RV roof is only part of maintaining the RV. Every time you clean the roof you need to inspect the sealants around all of the openings and the seams on the roof. Water will take the path of least resistance and if there is the smallest opening it will find it. You need to thoroughly inspect the roof sealants for potential leaks and reseal any areas of the roof seams and around openings where you suspect a leak. Check with your RV dealer for sealants that are compatible with your roofing material.

Carbon Monoxide Safety
Carbon Monoxide is called the silent killer because you cannot see it, taste it or smell it. It is produced by the partial combustion of solid, liquid and gas fuels. This includes gasoline, propane, natural gas, oil, wood, & coal. Never use your range burners or oven as a source of heat. If your RV is not equipped with a carbon monoxide detector purchase a battery operated model designed for use in RV's. Always test the carbon monoxide detector for proper operation before each trip.

RV Tire Protection
Ozone and UV rays from the sun shorten the life of your RV tires. You should keep the tires covered with covers that will block out the sunlight when the RV is not being used. I also recommend you place some type of blocking between the ground and the tires. Make sure that the blocking is larger than the tire’s footprint. No portion of the tire should hang over the edge of the tire block. This can cause internal damage to the tire. Keeping your RV tires covered is the most cost effective solution there is to protect the tires.

Deep Cycle Battery Tip
RVs need deep cycle batteries. True deep cycle batteries have much thicker plates and are designed to be deeply discharged and recharged over and over again. Deep cycle batteries are rated in amp hours. How many amps the battery can deliver for how many hours before the battery is discharged. The higher the amp hour capacity is the larger and heavier the battery is. If you have room for a larger battery and enjoy dry camping you may want to upgrade your deep cycle battery to one with a higher amp hour rating.
Q: I have watched some of your videos and decided to ask you my “hard to find an answer to” question. I am looking to upgrade to a 5th wheel camper. First I am getting a new vehicle to accommodate the larger size camper. I am looking at a either a Silverado or GMC 2500HD Crew Cab. My problem is that I keep getting conflicting answers on what size truck bed is proper for this type of towing. Do I need a long box or will the short box work properly? Hopefully you can help. Thank you.

A: It depends on the hitch you use. If you tow a fifth wheel trailer with a short bed truck using a standard 5th wheel hitch the front corner of the 5th wheel trailer can contact the rear of the vehicle cab when making sharp turns or navigating in tight places like at a campground.

5th wheel hitch manufacturers design hitches specifically for use in short bed trucks. They actually move forward and backward to allow for clearance, depending on the driving situation. Pull Rite has a good slider hitch called the SuperGlide for short bed trucks. I think they have a video on their web site demonstrating the hitch in action.

Long bed trucks don’t experience these issue when towing a 5th wheel trailer. ~ RV 101

To stay current with what’s happening in the world of RVs between magazine issues visit our Blog. We post informative RV tips and information a couple times per week. There is also an option to follow the Blog via e-mail. Just look on the right sidebar and when you sign up you’ll be notified each time we make a post.
How will you Remember your travels?

The laptop we would've used to keep in touch with the kids.

The guy from Ed's Towing. Spent three hours with him.

Cook's Field, the week after we missed the Bluegrass Festival.

Not all insurance is equal. Just because you have your RV insured, doesn’t mean your whole RV experience is covered. Things like personal effects coverage, vacation liability, and towing expenses are frequently left out of other carriers’ policies. But at Explorer RV, we believe it’s more than just your RV we’re covering. It’s the travels, the good times, the memories. Visit us online to learn more or to get a quote.

PROTECTING YOUR RV. PROTECTING YOUR MEMORIES.

EXPLORER RV
INSURANCE AGENCY, INC.

Visit www.explorerrv.com to get a quote
How-To Install a Coleman Mach Mach 8 RV Air Conditioner

Watch as we install an Ultra-Low profile Coleman Mach 8 air conditioner and free delivery ceiling assembly by the RV Products division of Airxcel in our vintage restoration project trailer.
Discover how easy it is to install a new Dometic 310 Series porcelain toilet in our vintage restoration project trailer.
See how easy it is to install a new Maxx Air II hinged RV vent cover over a standard RV roof vent and over a power ventilator roof vent, to increase the ventilation in your RV.
Here’s another great addition to any camping trip. These portable refrigerator & freezers by Dometic can be used outside the RV to keep the kids from running in and out, for a day trip away from the RV, and when you get back home they work great for picnics, a tent camping trip or a day on the lake.
Have peace of mind knowing your RV’s electrical system is protected while you’re camping. The portable Surge Guard is designed to protect your RV electrical system from surges and faulty campground wiring.
We basically have two choices when it comes to RV drinking hoses. You can replace the RV drinking hose on your RV every year with another cheap hose, or you can purchase a quality RV drinking hose that will last for years. Check out the Apex RV drinking hose!
Having the right insurance coverage on your RV is important when you need it. Get a free quote from Explorer RV Insurance.

Get your free RV Insurance Quote

Don’t leave home without Maxx Air Products

Non-Skid Paint for your RV

Did you ever have a need for non-skid paint for your RV, boat or around the house projects?

I was putting a new floor in my project boat and wanted a non-skid paint to coat the surface with. After some research I found a non-skid paint coating by Monster Paint Products. I contacted Jim Davis, the owner of the company, and our conversation eventually turned to RVs. He told me the non-skid paint worked great for RV steps, toy hauler ramps, and other surfaces you were concerned about slip and fall accidents.

I used the non-skid paint on my boat project and on the step of my vintage travel trailer. The outcome was great on both surfaces. If you have a surface you would like to be non-skid this paint will solve the problem.

Play Video
Blue Sky Energy has the solutions. Blue Sky Energy offers a feature-rich, entry-level Sun Charger 30 (SC30) solar charge controller that packs new benefits into a traditional solar charge controller at a more competitive price point. Made in America (the U.S. and Mexico), Blue Sky Energy’s 12-volt, 30-amp SC30 features a three-stage charge control, fully user-adjustable digital set points, a manual or automatic equalize function, a solar charge amp-hour counter, and an automatic night time dimming display.

In addition to these features, the high-performing SC30 meets rigorous standards for durability and reliability and offers a five-year warranty compared with the standard one-year warranty offered by other manufacturers.

Sun Charge Controller 30

The SC30 solar charge controllers regulate the transmission of power from solar panel to battery safely and efficiently to promote the longevity of the battery and the entire off-grid solar system, supporting up to 450 watts of 12 volt solar panels.

- **Three-stage charge control:** The SC30’s sophisticated three-stage PWM charging algorithm matches the output of the charger with the battery during the charging process- Advanced fully user-adjustable digital set points
- **Manual or automatic equalization:** This added SC30 function periodically conditions the battery to improve battery performance.
- **Solar charge amp-hour counter:** The SC30 comes enabled with a tracking function to monitor the amount of amp-hours delivered to the battery.
- **Five-year limited warranty**

“We are excited to offer the latest generation of solar charge controllers that combine integrity and resiliency with value and fill a pressing need for both our customers and the market,” said Melanie Cullen, VP of Marketing and Operations at Blue Sky Energy.

Click here for more information on the Blue Sky Energy Sun Charger 30
GRILLED MARINATED CHICKEN TENDERS
(Makes 3 to 4 servings)

1/4 cup (60 mL) canola oil
1 cup (250 mL) white vinegar
1/3 cup (80 mL) barbecue sauce
1 tablespoon (15 mL) dried rosemary
1 teaspoon (5 mL) dried thyme leaves
2 teaspoons (10 mL) garlic powder
12 large chicken tenders

Combine the canola oil, white vinegar, barbecue sauce, rosemary, thyme, and garlic powder in a bowl. Mix well.
Place the chicken in a container with a lid.
Pour the marinade over the chicken. Cover. Shake well to coat the chicken with the marinade.
Refrigerate and marinate for 4 to 5 hours. Turn the chicken several times while marinating.
Barbecue over medium heat until the chicken tenders are browned and cooked through.

Please visit The Cooking Ladies’ website at www.thecookingladies.com
Learn more about our products

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RV Education 101 Learning RVs the Easy Way

2013 Media Kit
Our goal with RV Consumer E-Magazine is to provide you with helpful information to make all of your RV experiences more enjoyable. I left my position as an RV Sales and F&I manager in 2000 to start RV Education 101.

We produce RV educational videos & DVDs and publish books and e-books on how to safely & properly use and maintain your RV. The reason I left my job was because of my concern about the lack of educational and safety awareness material available to the RV consumer, in other words you.

My wife Dawn left her position in RV sales to help start the company, and is our Sales and Marketing Director. We currently have a 35-foot Class A motor home. We have two boys, Tyler 16 and Josh 22, both avid RVers and three dogs, Roxie, Gracie and Buck. If you would like to learn more about us and about RV Education 101 please visit www.rveducation101.com

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