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- Devin T., Georgia

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Get Superior Sway Control - Get the Original Equal-i-zer® Sway Control Hitch.
It’s hard to believe September is here already. I am a little disappointed we did not get to use the RV as much as we wanted to over the summer, but we have several trips planned this fall. Later this month we will take the RV to the Pennsylvania RV & Camping Show in Hershey, Pa, and from there we will head to the fall Auto Fair in Charlotte, NC To take in a car show and swap meet.

I would like to take another fall RV trip to the Blue Ridge Mountains when the leaves start turning, to relax a bit, enjoy the fall foliage and the cooler weather in the mountains.

Enjoy this issue of RV Consumer Magazine, and if you have RV friends and family tell them to subscribe, and to like us on Facebook

Happy camping & stay safe,
~ Mark
Our digital RV Product Catalog puts all of our RV training products in one place, and we separate what products apply to what 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 the product catalog now

Enjoy the RV Journey - wherever it takes you
There has always been confusion over hitch receiver weight ratings as it pertains to tow vehicle weight ratings. This confusion applies to both motorhomes towing a dinghy and vehicles towing trailers. For example, when I was selling RVs many years ago I had a customer who just bought a brand new truck and came to the dealership to purchase a travel trailer. He and his wife found the perfect trailer on the sales lot and wanted some pricing information. When I researched the truck’s tow capacity I informed them the truck was not rated to tow the weight of the trailer they selected. The customer told me that was impossible because the truck salesperson showed him a label that stated the truck could tow 10,000 pounds. He proceeded to take me out to the truck and pointed at the label on the hitch receiver that read 10,000 pounds. I explained the 10,000 pounds on the label identifies what the hitch receiver is rated at, but the truck itself was only rated to tow 6,000 pounds. It was a very expensive lesson on finding the RV you want to purchase before you purchase the tow vehicle.

On a separate occasion I had a customer who wanted to tow a medium size pick-up truck behind a used motorhome he was planning to purchase. When I told him the truck weighed too much he argued that the motorhome could easily tow 5,000 pounds. I explained that the motorhome might be rated to tow the weight of the truck, but the hitch receiver was only rated to tow 3,500 pounds. On some RVs when frame rail extensions were added, to extend the length of a chassis to accommodate the box size, it jeopardized the towing capacity. To solve the issue RV manufacturer’s installed hitch receivers with a lower weight rating to limit the amount of weight the owner would tow behind the RV.

I think you get the point, but the confusion over hitch receiver ratings doesn’t stop here. I have talked to many other people who translate the label on the hitch receiver to say if you use a
weight distributing hitch the vehicle can tow more weight. For starters hitch receivers are rated by class. What this means is some hitch receivers are designed for light duty towing applications and others are designed for heavy duty towing applications.

Every component in a towing system has a weight rating, and the overall towing capacity is based on the weakest link in the towing chain. This applies to the tow vehicle (engine, transmission, axle ratio, cooling system, brakes and tires) and the hitch components used (receiver, ball mount, hitch ball, safety chains and weight distributing hitch components). The hitch receiver and all other components in the towing chain should be rated to tow the maximum amount of weight the tow vehicle itself is rated to tow, but if it the receiver is rated for a higher amount of weight it does not increase the tow vehicle vehicle's maximum capacity.

Hitch receiver weight ratings are based on the "maximum trailer weight" and "maximum tongue weight" the receiver is rated for. Class I and II hitch receivers are designed for light duty applications and have a 1 1/4" receiver tube opening. Class III, IV & V hitch receivers are designed for heavy duty applications and have 2" receiver tube openings. Note: There are extra-heavy duty and commercial-duty hitch receivers too, with 2 1/2" receiver tube openings designed for extra-heavy duty towing applications.

Class III, IV & V hitch receivers have two weight ratings, one if it is used as a Weight Carrying (WC) hitch and another as a Weight Distributing (WD) hitch. A WC hitch means all of the trailer's tongue weight is supported by the hitch itself, which accounts for the lower weight capacity the hitch receiver is rated at. When you add WD distributing components (spring bars) to the equation the trailer's tongue weight is distributed to the axles on the tow vehicle and axles on the trailer resulting in a higher weight capacity for the hitch receiver itself. But always keep in mind, this higher hitch receiver weight rating has nothing to do with what the vehicle is rated to tow. It simply means if you use a WD hitch the hitch receiver is rated for more weight because all of the tongue weight is not resting on the hitch/receiver itself.

Another important point to keep in mind is the hitch receiver must be installed properly for the weight ratings to be accurate. ~RV101
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If you winterize your own RV installing a water pump converter kit makes the task much easier to do. A water pump converter kit gives you an easy way to introduce the non-toxic RV antifreeze into the RV water lines.

There are several converter kits to choose from and they are easy to install. The model I use is by Valterra Products and it comes with a brass diverter valve, a plastic coupler, Teflon tape and plastic tubing.

The first step is to drain the fresh water holding tank and the water heater. **Caution:** Never drain the water heater when it is hot or under pressure. Next locate the water pump on the RV. The location of the water pump will determine how difficult or how easy this installation will be.

Disconnect the water line coming from the fresh water holding tank to the water pump. Wrap the male threads on the water pump with Teflon tape and install and tighten the plastic coupler on the water pump (Only tighten one turn past finger tight). Next wrap the threads on both ends of the brass valve (in the kit) with Teflon tape. Screw the brass valve into the plastic coupler making sure the arrow on the valve points away from the pump. Use a back up wrench and tighten at least one turn past finger tight. Re-attach the water line you removed from the pump to the opposite end of the brass valve.

After the installation is complete add some water to the fresh water tank, pressurize the system and check it for leaks. When it’s time to winterize the RV make sure there is no pressure on the system and remove the brass cap from the tee fitting you installed. Attach the plastic tubing to the brass fitting and place the other end of the tubing into a one gallon jug of non-toxic RV antifreeze. Turn the valve on the tee fitting to allow the pump to draw the antifreeze from the jug. When you turn the water pump on it will draw the antifreeze from the jug, just like it draws water from the fresh water tank, and pump the antifreeze through the RV water system.

~*RV 101*

If you would like to learn more about winterizing your own RV check out our winterizing and storing your RV DVD
RV Maintenance after the Trip: Exterior

- Drain the water heater. Make sure it is not hot or under pressure.
- Wash the exterior
- Inspect sealants around all openings and inspect slide-out seals
- Turn the LP gas supply off
- Make sure the awning is clean and dry before stowing
- Check tires for proper inflation and cover the tires if stored outside
- Make sure the battery is fully charged.
- Drain the fresh water tank if you don’t have another trip planned in the near future
- Leave a roof vent cracked open for ventilation if you have vent covers that prevent rain from getting inside.
RV Maintenance after the Trip: Interior

- Turn battery disconnect switches off to prevent the battery from draining
- Remove perishables
- Empty and clean the refrigerator and freezer. Leave doors propped open
- Close window blinds or day/night shades to prevent exposure & damage from the sun
- Clean the RV interior
- Add some tank treatment or dish washing liquid down the sink and shower drains to prevent odors and help clean the gray tank.
- Empty the holding tanks and treat the black tank with holding tank treatment
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**Tired of dead RV batteries?**

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Did you miss the RV DIY Project Video Series we produced earlier this summer? If so you can catch up here, just click on a title that interests you and enjoy the video.

- How To Level a Travel Trailer
- Must Have Trailer Towing Products
- How To Install a Battery Disconnect
- How To Protect your RV Water System
- How To Install an Electric Tongue Jack
- How To Install a Maxx Air RV Roof Vent
- How To Protect your RV Electrical System
- Extend A Line RV Campground Clothes Dryer
Every year, when cooler weather arrives I like to remind folks about the dangers of carbon monoxide gas. **Carbon monoxide (CO) gas is invisible, odorless, and deadly!** It is produced by the partial combustion of solid, liquid and gaseous fuels. This includes gasoline, propane, natural gas, oil, wood, & coal.

It is extremely serious when combustion by-products are not vented outside, or when you are exposed to any source of CO gas. **Carbon Monoxide is the number one cause of poisoning deaths each year.** Carbon monoxide poisoning is toxic and can be deadly to both humans and animals. CO poisoning occurs after enough carbon monoxide gas is inhaled. The severity of the CO poisoning depends on the level of CO gas you are exposed to, and the duration of the exposure. The good news is the threat of CO poisoning can be lessened through awareness and education. Let’s take a look at what we can do to prevent the danger of carbon monoxide poisoning.

**CO Exposure**

When it comes to RVs and camping carbon monoxide gas usually results from:

- Exhaust leaks from either a vehicle engine or a generator.
- Improper use of portable gas powered heaters.
- Somebody else’s vehicle or generator when camping in close quarters.
- Malfunctioning or unvented LP gas appliances.

**CO Prevention**

First of all, if your RV doesn't have a carbon monoxide detector you need to purchase a battery operated carbon monoxide detector designed for use in RVs. Test the carbon monoxide detector every time you use the RV. Replace the carbon monoxide detector batteries when you change clocks for daylight savings time. Check the CO detector expiration date and replace when expired, they are only good for 5 to 6 years.

**Important CO prevention tips:**

- Inspect the generator exhaust system before using the generator, every time. Do not use the generator with a damaged or missing exhaust system.
✓ Avoid leaving windows down and roof vents open when in close proximity to vehicle and/or generator exhaust.
✓ Follow all directions and safety cautions and warnings when operating gas powered heaters and other devices.
   If you use a portable generator direct the exhaust well away from the camping area and any enclosed or obstructed areas.
✓ **Never** use the range burners or oven to heat the RV.
✓ When cooking with the range burners use the range top fan & leave a window cracked open for fresh air and ventilation.
✓ If somebody in close proximity to you is running a generator ask them to turn it off. They might be upset with your request, but it can save lives.

**CO Symptoms**
Teach everybody with you how to recognize carbon monoxide symptoms. Carbon monoxide symptoms are similar to flu symptoms, but without the fever.

**CO symptoms include:**
✓ Dizziness
✓ Vomiting
✓ Nausea
✓ Muscular twitching
✓ Intense headache
✓ Throbbing in the temples
✓ Weakness and sleepiness
✓ Inability to think coherently

**Responding to CO Treat**
If you or anyone else experiences any of these symptoms take the following action:
✓ Shut the vehicle, generator or source of the CO poisoning down and do not operate it again until it has been inspected and repaired by a professional.
✓ Get to fresh air immediately.
✓ Account for everybody that is with you.
✓ Call 911 for emergency assistance.
✓ Do not re-enter the RV.
✓ If the symptoms persist seek medical attention immediately.

For more information on CO safety and awareness visit this [US Consumer Product Safety site](http://www cpsc.g ov).

For more information on RV safety check out our [RV Safety Download](http://www.rvconsumer.com).
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.

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.

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If you want access to informative RV how-to videos, RV product videos, RV installation videos and more take a minute to visit our RV Education YouTube channel.

You can subscribe to our channel and get notified every time we post a new video. We currently have over 250 RV Education 101 produced videos posted on our channel with over 18,000 subscribers and 4,800,000 video views.

It’s a great place to sharpen up on your RV skills and learn more about how to use and maintain your RV.
Celebrity Guacamole
(Makes approximately 2 cups)

2 avocados
1 tablespoon (15 ml) lime juice
1/2 teaspoon (2.5 ml) seasoned salt
2 tablespoons (30 ml) finely chopped onion
1 plum tomato, finely diced
3 tablespoons (45 ml) mild salsa

- Wash and peel the avocados.
- Cut the flesh into chunks and place them in a bowl.
- Add the lime juice and the seasoned salt to the avocado chunks.
- Gently stir and break up the chunks with a fork. The texture should not be completely smooth. Some chunks should remain.
- Add the onion, tomato, and salsa. Gently stir to combine all the ingredients.
- Place the guacamole in a serving dish. Garnish with a wedge of lime. Serve with tortilla chips.

Happy Hour Recipes PDF E-book
This #1 best selling e-book is the first in The Cooking Ladies' Favorite series. And to make this cookbook even more outstanding, The Cooking Ladies have included a photo of each finished dish. Recipe ingredients are given in both Imperial and metric measurements.
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RV Education 101 Learning RVs the Easy Way

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 18 and Josh 24, both avid RVers and two dogs, Roxie and Gracie. If you would like to learn more about us and about RV Education 101 please visit www.rveducation101.com

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