

EXTERIOR SEALANTS

The topic we have chosen for this month's article is maintenance of exterior sealants. This is a subject that we discuss with customers daily, and that can't be overemphasized. Winnebago Industries has always been proactive in recommending regular inspection of all exterior sealants, and replacing questionable areas. Company operator manuals have stressed the importance of proper care since 1969 (the oldest manual we could locate).

We have also developed a Sealants Application Manual for pre-1997 vehicles that is available from your dealer as Winnebago part number 701674-20-000. For newer vehicles we have provided exterior sealant information with the coach in the form of a sealants callout sheet that you can view on our website under Resources > Manuals.

Please note that our callout sheets do not necessarily identify every seal on the vehicle that requires attention. For example, some skylights and roof vents, refrigerator vents and exterior access panels, and many sidewall features such as clearance and porch lights may not be pointed out individually. Common sense dictates that they all need attention, as even the best quality sealant products do age and will fail. Another area that may be overlooked is the roof edge that inserts into the sidewall j-trim. In this instance, the sealant does double duty as both water leak prevention and securing the skin in the channel. As in other applications, exposure to the elements and flexing of the vehicle can degrade this seam.

MAINTENANCE

Because of the important role that sealants play in protecting the vehicle from the elements, it is imperative that they be inspected at a minimum of every six months or any time that the integrity of a seal or seam is in question. During inspection, you should be looking for any cracks, voids, gaps, breaks or physical degradation in the sealants or seals. Any irregularities should be repaired promptly. If an irregularity is found, it is necessary to remove the damaged seal or sealant and replace it.

TYPES OF SEALANTS

There are currently three basic types of sealants used on the exterior of Winnebago Industries produced vehicles; silicone-based, urethane-based and solvent based.

Because different based sealants are not compatible, it is imperative that the proper product is used when resealing. In other words, if a

non-compatible sealant is used, the two materials will repel each other and allow moisture and debris to penetrate the seal. Ascertaining whether a sealant is silicone, urethane or solvent based can be difficult for someone not knowledgeable or proficient in resealing. As a general rule, urethane sealants cure to a more firm and rigid form. Solvent-based sealants can cure to either pliable or firm states depending on the particular sealant. Silicone sealants tend to remain more pliable. Silicone sealants will retain a higher gloss after curing. Urethane sealants are colored. Silicone can be clear or colored. Solvent based can be clear or colored. The following is a current list of products available from your Winnebago Industries dealer.

We hope this information will be helpful. If you have any questions or require service to your coach, we suggest you contact your dealer.

Urethane:		
Part #	Description	Secondary
072889-01-000	Seal-U-Black 1/10	Essex 58702
072889-05-000	Seal-U-Black	Essex 57302
072889-08-000	Seal-U (HV) VW WHT	Manus 75AM
072889-09-000	Seal-U (Tube) Black	Manus 75AM
072889-10-000	Seal-U (HV) BRTWHT	Manus 75AM
072889-11-000	Seal-U (Tube) Gray	Manus 75AM
072889-12-000	Seal-U (LV) BRTWHT	Manus 75AM
072889-13-000	Seal-U (LV) VW WHT	Manus 75AM
072889-14-000	Seal-U (HV) Sable	Manus 75AM
072889-16-000	Seal-U (LV) Black	Manus 75AM
072889-19-000	Seal-U (Foil) Black	Manus 75AM 10 OZ
072889-20-000	Seal-U (Foil) BRTWT	Manus 75AM 10 OZ
072889-21-000	Seal-U (Foil) BRTWT	Manus 75AM 20 OZ
Silicones:		
Part #	Description	Secondary
131264-01-01A	Silicone-Black w/o nozzle	CSL 302
131264-01-02A	Silicone-Clear w/o nozzle	CSL 303
131264-01-04A	Silicone-Off/Wht w/o nozzle	CSL 304
131264-01-08A	Silicone-Buff w/o nozzle	CSL 305
131264-02-01A	Silicone-VW/Gray w/o nozzle	CSL 160
131264-03-01A	Silicone-Br/Wht w/o nozzle	CSL 515 Self-leveling