8 March 2023

Dear

**Covi Motorhome Show, Auckland**

UCC Motorhomes & Caravans will be exhibiting at the Covi show this month. We are on track to have our motorhomes in Auckland, Cook Strait Ferry’s allowing, and look forward to catching up with anyone who is visiting the show this year.

Please look out for us on Stand 268 in Hall 2, which is our usual location.

**Grey water tanks**

From time to time we have customers asking us to identify the source of an unpleasant smell inside their motorhome or caravan. The smell is usually sulphurous. This is always caused by the grey water tank.

Toilet cassettes always receive a rinse out and have new treatment added after each empty however most grey water tanks are challenging to rinse out and usually receive no treatment. You can imagine how a mix of warm water, food scraps, shower water etc can mix with some bacteria to “fester” and create an unpleasant smell.

We strongly recommend that the grey water tank receives a treatment at least at the end of a trip or more regularly depending on how it is being used. There are a range of options to do this from dedicated grey water tank treatments, using the same chemicals as you use in your toilet cassette, to various “home remedies” that you may see discussed on various social media forums.

We do not recommend using anything that is corrosive in your grey water tank. Most tanks are emptied via a ball valve with has a coated steel ball inside. This can seize in place if the wrong type of treatment is used.

**Fridges and hot weather**

When the weather gets hot most fridges, 3 way and compressor types, will struggle to keep cold. The simplest solution is to increase the airflow over the cooling unit at the back of the fridge. This can be done with a thermostat and small fan. We suggest an isolating switch be put in, so you don’t have to listen to the fan at night.

Some newer models of fridge have a fan included now but if yours doesn’t it is reasonably simple job to do.

If it is possible park your motorhome or caravan with the fridge vents facing away from the sun (it’s not always possible to do this).

**Support videos**

Just a reminder that we have some videos on the UCC motorhomes web site that cover some of the common items on European sourced motorhomes.

Go to https://uccmotorhomes.co.nz/videos

You will also find previous issues of this newsletter on our website that cover a variety of topics such as the black sealant mentioned above.

Go to https://www.uccmotorhomes.co.nz/service/documents

**Check Engine Light**

All modern vehicles have a “Check Engine Light” warning that could appear on the instrument cluster. It is an Orange/Amber coloured image of an engine. It can be triggered by a very wide range of events ranging from a faulty or failed sensor through to low engine battery voltage. Its purpose is to tell you something has occurred that is outside of the system tolerances set in the Engine Management System. Unless you have other warnings appearing it is usually safe to continue driving until you can get to a workshop that has a diagnostic scanner to identify what has caused the light to come on. In some cases clearing the fault codes is all that is required. The Mechanic will be able to make an assessment based on the codes provided by the scan tool.

**Towing a vehicle behind your motorhome**

We have found the following article from Suzuki NZ which is a good basic overview of the things you should consider if you are thinking of towing a vehicle behind your motorhome. Please copy and paste the address below into your web browser.

https://drive.suzuki.co.nz/blog/what-you-need-to-know-when-flat-towing-behind-a-motorhome

**Selling your Motorhome**

If you have made the sad decision that you no longer need your motorhome and intend to sell it, please contact either Rob or Sarah to discuss the options we can offer to help you with this. We are always on the lookout for good motorhomes.

Please remember that if you need help or advice for your motorhome or caravan, please do not hesitate to get in touch with one of our team.

Wishing you and your family enjoyable and safe travels.

Kind regards

The Team @ UCC Motorhomes and Caravans

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