

13 August 2021

Spring is almost here (despite the snow a few days ago) and if you haven't been using your motorhome or caravan it is time to start thinking about that next trip.

Parts

Supply chains are still under a lot of pressure, and we are struggling to maintain a good supply of some parts despite increasing our stocks. Shipping has not been too much of a problem with delays of only a week or two from expected. The problem is our suppliers are out of stock. We don't expect this to improve anytime in the near future but are doing our best to reduce any impact this may have on you.

Solar panels

We have had a few questions about solar panels lately, mostly around the question – Do I have enough solar on my roof.

There is no straightforward answer to this question. The things to consider are how much power do you use in a typical day, what is the capacity of your batteries and what is the output of the current solar system.

The first thing to do is add up the consumption of the 12V systems in your RV and convert that to amps ($\text{Amps} = \text{Watts}/12$). Multiply the amps by the number of hours in use to come to a total Amp/Hr figure.

Next is to determine the output of your solar system which is usually stated in Watts. Use the same equation above to convert to Amps and multiply this by the number of hours of effective sunlight. This one is a bit trickier because an overcast day will significantly reduce the output of the solar panel as will any shadows on the panel. As an example, a 200W panel might supply say 14amps in perfect conditions in bright sunlight but only supply 2-3 amps in dull conditions. You will see there is a bit of guess work in deriving a usable figure for the total solar input.

Lastly, the Leisure Batteries. Check the label to see the Amp/Hr rating. Preferably the C20 rating which is the most common rating. This describes how many amps the battery can supply over a 20-hour period.

Now you have the numbers the following example will show you what to do with them.

A system that typically uses 60 Amp/Hrs over 24 hours will ideally have a battery capacity of at least 120Amp/Hrs so that you don't use any more than 50% of the available capacity. If your battery capacity was less, then it would be prudent to increase your battery capacity. 60 Amp/Hrs equates to 720 Watts so if you had effective sunlight for 4 hours during the day a 200W panel would be sufficient to recharge your batteries (assuming bright sunlight). Many days will be less than this especially in winter.

Hopefully this gives you some information to compare your system against. If you need any assistance with this, please contact the Service Team (Ross or Peter) at UCC and they will be able to help.

Easy access raised toilet seat

We have been able to obtain a supply of raised toilet seats that fit to most Thetford RV toilets. The seat increases the height of the toilet by 100mm making it much easier to use if you have hip or knee mobility problems. It is so simple to fit and remove. It is made from an easy to clean sanitary grade plastic.

Pricing is \$95.00 inc GST plus freight.

Spare wheels

We have been able to locate some used spare rims with tyres fitted to suit a Fiat Ducato with 15" rims. The tyres are suitable for use as a spare wheel. If you have been looking for a spare for your motorhome, give us a call.

Pricing is \$200.00 each GST included.

Fiat wheel trims

We have also found some used but tidy genuine Fiat plastic wheel trims that fit a 16" rim. If you have lost one and need a replacement, give us a call.

Pricing is \$65.00 each plus shipping, GST included.

Contacting UCC

Just to help us out if you are texting or emailing can you please put your full name (vehicle rego also if you have it) in the message. Quite a few txt messages don't have a name which makes it a bit challenging to work out who you are and which vehicle you have. We can search on mobile numbers so long as it is one we have entered into our workshop system but this is not always successful.

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.

Kind regards

Rob & the Team @ UCC Motorhomes and Caravans

If you do not wish to receive these emails from UCC Motorhomes please reply to ross@uccmotorhomes.co.nz with "unsubscribe" in the subject line

