22 May 2023

Dear

The Christchurch Motorhome Show has just been held with a record day for visitors on Saturday. We also had a very busy weekend with our own Expo at UCC.

**Condensation**

It is the time of year where internal condensation can become a problem in your motorhome and caravan. For most of the last few weeks my weather station at home (Christchurch) has been showing relative humidity levels between 60 and 90% outside the house. That’s quite a bit of moisture. Combine this with cooking, breathing etc in a relatively small space can lead to quite high moisture levels inside your vehicle. This moisture will turn to water on any cold surface that it comes into contact with. In motorhomes this is the windscreen. As the moisture condense out of the air and turns to water more moisture arrives to continue the process. The only simple solution is good ventilation to reduce the internal moisture.

If you use a dehumidifier when not using your motorhome or caravan it will never get to 0%. There is always moisture in the air, even in a desert.

**New Motorhomes and Caravans**

After many months of shipping and manufacturing delays caused by Covid we recently received 2 new Sunlight motorhomes which have been through our workshop and are ready for delivery. We will be receiving a selection of new Dethleffs Motorhomes and Caravans during June.

**Winter heating**

With colder weather finally upon us LPG fuelled heaters can struggle when the temperatures drop below zero. Our best suggestion is to ensure your LPG bottle is full or close to full before it gets dark. This will ensure that there is plenty of Propane in your gas bottle to keep the heater running overnight. We have explained previously that the LPG available in NZ is a mix of Butane and Propane. Butane needs warmer temperatures than Propane to vapourise in the bottle so, when it is cold and you think there are a couple of kg’s of gas in your bottle it most likely only Butane which will cause your heater to stop overnight.

If you intend to do a lot of camping in cold areas the option to upgrade to a Diesel Heater is good one and generally reasonably easy to do. Please contact us if this is something you would like to consider.

**Fiat motorhomes and cold driver’s feet**

Some people may have experienced cold feet when driving a Fiat based motorhome in winter. The Fiat heating system directs more warm air to the passenger side rather than the driver’s side in Right Hand Drive versions. We have a simple fix that will direct more air to the driver’s side that can be done by a competent DIY’er or we can do at our workshop. Please contact us for more information.

**Recent Service Questions**

The first point is directed at Dethleffs, Sunlight, Carado owners but is applicable to other brands of motorhome and caravan.

If you find that no interior 12V systems (lights, TV, Pump etc) are working it is highly likely that the master 12V switch has been turned off accidently. Tho check this look at the heater control panel, is it operational? If yes, then check the master switch is on. Press it once and then check a light. Nearly every time this will fix the issue. If this is unsuccessful, then check the 40A main fuse beside the leisure batteries. If Ok, then turn off the 12V system completely and turn back on to reset it.

This point is applicable to everyone. We have had quite a few instances lately where customers report low battery voltage or low voltage system shut downs. In most cases it is a result of insufficient charging during the day due to cloudy and wet weather. More energy is being taken from the battery than can be replenished the next day leading to incremental losses and system shut downs. The immediate solution is to plug into mains power for probably 48 hours to fully charge your batteries. The second step is to reassess your solar system, is it adequate? Or is this just a one off event?

**Frosts**

If you live in an area that experiences hard frosts (Central Otago etc) then you should ensure your plumbing is drained when the motorhome or caravan is not being used. When you do this make sure all taps are left open in the “warm” position to prevent water freezing in the tap. Almost all taps are plastic and will split if water freezes inside them. Operate the toilet after the system has been drained to eliminate water freezing at the toilet control valve.

There will be additional information in the owners manual about this.

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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