

Roof Vent and Skylight Inspection

TIM and *AL*: Hello everyone, welcome to another addition of Tim n Al's Tech Tips.

AL: What's on the agenda today Tim?

TIM: Well Al, I thought this would be a good time to look over the roof vents, skylights and vent covers.

AL: Good idea Tim, all the vents, skylights and covers, including the plumbing vent covers should be inspected at least twice a year for damage and deterioration.

TIM: OK Al, how do we do this?

AL: Well Tim, the first part is something you seem to have challenges with; getting up a ladder.

TIM: Hey. I don't have any trouble getting up a ladder.

AL: Oh you're right Tim, you get up the ladder fine, but it's the coming down you can't seem to get right.

TIM: Very funny Al, but you do bring up a good point. If you're not comfortable with ladders and heights you should probably let someone else do the inspections for you, like the Technicians at Arbutus RV.

AL: That's right Tim, if you're comfortable with ladders and heights, you should get up on the roof of your RV and give it a good inspection.

TIM: You should check the entire roof while you're up there, but today we're going to focus on the plastic items on your roof like Vents and Covers and Skylights.

AL: While you're on the roof you don't want to create problems, so make sure you don't have rocks or other potentially sharp items stuck in your shoes, they can pierce a rubber or aluminum roof. If you have a loose-laid aluminum roof or a light weight RV you may need to lay a plank across the roof to spread your weight.

TIM: So Al; we're on the roof, not going to do any damage, what are we looking for?

AL: Well Tim, we want to take a close look at Vents, Skylights and Covers for any potential damage from falling branches, flying rocks...

Tim: When did rocks start flying Al?

AL: Remember the rock that hit your windshield? What do you think would happen if that hit your plastic vent?

TIM: Good point Al, any damaged items should be replaced to prevent leaks.

AL: We also need to take a close look for signs of deterioration.

TIM: The sun can be particular hard on plastic, the plumbing vent covers seem to deteriorate very quickly.

AL: Yes Tim, but don't use that as a guide for the rest of your inspection. You should actually test each of the plastic parts by slightly bending them; if they crack, break, look chalky or deteriorated, you should replace them.

TIM: I thought we didn't want to create any damage while we're up there?

AL: You're right, but if the plastic breaks from giving it a slight bend the chances are pretty good it will break or be blown off completely in the next wind storm; when would you rather change the broken parts?

TIM: Good point again Al, and when plastic gets chalky it's a sign it is getting deteriorated and could crack any time.

AL: If your roof vents have plastic bases be sure to check them very carefully, a leak here goes directly into your roof.

TIM: Generally speaking, deteriorated plastic parts should be replaced but if you have an older unit you might not be able to find exact replacement parts. Skylights, Escape Hatches and Air Conditioner Covers will sometimes require customization or the use of a universal one size fits all. Check with Arbutus RV to find out what will work best for you.

TIM and AL: Well that's all the time for today folks, Happy Camping.