

LOSS CONTROL BULLETIN

Recreational Vehicle Roof Maintenance

Are you aware that damage the size of a pinhole in the roof of your Recreational Vehicle (RV) could cause such severe damage that the RV may not be able to be repaired?

More Americans than ever are touring the country in RV's. Whether you are a snowbird, a full timer, or a family anxious to view the country, an RV can provide you with the convenience of your home wherever you go. Why take the chance of losing your enjoyable time in your RV over damage the size of a needlepoint?

Why Complete Proper Roof Maintenance?

An RV roof isn't like the roof on your home or car. A typical roof on a home can withstand variance in temperature and elements without a need to inspect it periodically (except for checking for storm damage or cleaning out gutters). A vehicle roof is generally sealed with few seams and, certainly, no rubber coating.

Many RV roofs, however, are composed of rubber composite material. The material is not only lighter and weather resistant, but also has seams and seals that must be maintained. Harsh weather conditions, flying debris, and extremes of hot and cold can break down the roof of your RV. In some situations, an RV may also sit empty for extended periods of time.

A leak the size of a pinhole can turn into severe damage to your RV — and you may not know it for months.

What Causes a Pinhole in an RV Roof?

Any sharp object can cut the roof material. Damage can occur when walking on the roof, loading things on the roof, parking under a tree and letting limbs drag across the roof and from the general environment that you are in. Small holes or breaks in the sealant around vents, skylights and air conditioning units may also develop over time due to exposure to weather conditions and deterioration.

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Performing Maintenance on Your RV Roof

Consider completing a few easy tasks before you park your investment until the next trip.

Clean your roof at least four (4) times annually, including but not limited to:

- 1) Clean complete roof with rubber roof cleaner.
- 2) Rinse complete roof with clean water to remove any loose dirt or debris.
- 3) Scrub the entire roof with medium bristle brush and rinse thoroughly.
- 4) Inspect the seams where the areas of sheet metal, moldings, rubber and fiberglass are joined.
- 5) Carefully inspect the sealant around any vents, skylights and air conditioners.

Exposure to the elements will cause sealants to deteriorate over time. Variations in climate and weather may accelerate deterioration. Inspection and periodic resealing is essential as preventative maintenance. If cracks or shrinkage are noticed, immediately follow the rubber roof manufacturer's recommendations for repair or resealing. Special sealants are used due to the composition of the roofing material. For the appropriate sealant, see your dealer.¹

Your RV roof covers a valuable investment. Follow the instructions provided by the manufacturer regarding maintenance and upkeep. If needed, seek maintenance from a certified dealer or RV mechanic.

For more RV safety tips and education, visit anpac.com and select "RV Products".



No one wants to think about suffering a loss. In the unfortunate event you do have a loss, our **ANPAC Five Star Claim ServiceSM** is designed to provide assurance and confidence to our policyholders throughout the claims process.

24-Hour Claims Hotline 1-800-333-2860

¹Keystone RV Company, Owners Manual September 1, 2006