

Seals

In and around the motor home are many seals to protect against contaminants and fluids. Seals come in a variety of shapes and sizes. Some seals adhere to the surface, seals that lock in place, and seals that grip the edge of the metal. Replacement seals and gaskets should be of the same type and quality as the original part. Seals used in the motor home are designed for a specific application and purpose so it is important to replace the seal with the same type so that it can perform the task it was designed to do.

Check seals and gaskets periodically to insure proper function. Keep them properly cleaned and lubricated to perform their job and extend their life.

Six months is the average shelf life of most gaskets and seals. They should be stored in a cool dry area with a temperature of 65 to 75 degrees. Seals and gaskets designed with PSA (Pressure Sensitive Adhesive) should be stored in a dry, dust free environment comfortably kept at room temperature in a protective container.

To correctly apply new seals and gaskets, remove all contaminants from the contact area, such as glue, oil, grease, solvent, mold, fiberglass and dust. Do not damage the surface material by scraping the surface to remove contaminants. Isopropyl alcohol can be used to remove most debris. Adhesive removers are available to clean surfaces with old glue. Keep the work area as dust free as possible.

Proper surface temperature helps to insure successful application of new seals and gaskets. Extreme hot or cold temperatures can prevent adhesives from properly curing. For best results, apply new seals and gaskets at room temperature, between 65 to 85 degrees Fahrenheit.

Pressure should be applied during contact between the gasket and adhesive to create a proper bond. When applying a seal that is long in length use care to apply equal pressure along the entire length of the seal. Apply the seal by peeling off the release liner in small increments at a time to limit adhesive exposure to dirt and debris. Place the gasket adhesive on the surface, firmly. A weighted roller can be used to insure uniform application pressure. Avoid stretching the seal during application. Approximately 65% of the sealant is secured with proper pressure during the application process. Cure time for the remaining bonding adhesive generally takes 48 to 72 hours.

Be sure to use gaskets and seals made of the same material as the original. Substituting a different material may not provide the appropriate life and function as the original material. Some substitutions may not provide a proper seal if exposed to chemicals that they were not designed to contact.