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October 2022 Newsletter from Air Safe Hitches

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How largest Airstream dealership in nation grew up in Valley

Georgann Yara

Special for the Arizona Business Gazette

Whenever Aaron Korges walks into the new showroom that houses his Airstream dealership, the RV industry veteran sees a career dream that's come to fruition.

Korges and his wife, Kristie, own We Are Airstream Superstore Chandler, the largest authorized Airstream dealership in the nation. The state-of-the-art showroom also features a service center and storage facility spanning more than 136,000 square feet and located on 15 acres.

But, that's not necessarily the exact dream Korges was thinking of. After more than two decades selling vehicles of all sizes on asphalt lots under the scorching sun, he was happy that his customers could browse and his team could operate in comfort.

"It's great to have a facility with climate control. This was my dream," Korges said of his fully enclosed facility, an uncommon amenity.

The Korgeses' inventory features Airstream models ranging from touring coaches to large travel trailers. The six new units onsite are for display, giving customers an idea

of what their new ordered model would be. There are 15 to 20 pre-owned Airstreams on the floor at any given time.

The Chandler dealership is the largest size-wise and one of the few brand specialists in the nation, Korges said. The move into this facility in 2021 allowed the company to provide elevated all-encompassing service.

In 2021, the company experienced 60% growth over 2020, Korges said. It's on track to achieve a 90% increase this year. This growth comes from pre-owned models, which have been in particularly high demand in recent years.

Not bad for a Dallas native who arrived in the Valley in 1997 with \$1,600 in his pocket, a car worth \$3,400 and money borrowed from his stepdad.

"We are able to hire more staff and provide an RV buying experience, not just an RV place. It's a full destination," Korges said. "The facility allowed this kind of growth."

Airstream comprises 99% of the inventory, Korges said.

"We try to specialize to provide the best buying experience with the best-educated team members. Once you start straying from that, you become just like any other dealership," Korges said.

This level of specialization is among the reasons Vince Boerbon purchased his 30-foot Airstream Classic from Korges a few years ago. A retired police commander, Boerbon had long dreamed of owning one.

Boerbon did more than his share of research. He also wanted to buy locally. He found Korges, and after many trips to the showroom, he took the leap.

After seeing the same employees over the years, Boerbon knew this was the business from which to make such a monumental purchase.

"He's got to be doing something right," said Boerbon, who lives in Gilbert. "Here's a business owner who knows what he's doing and is passionate about Airstreams. You can open a dealership but if you don't know the product or nomenclature of RVs, that could be very detrimental to the customer."

Ridiculous Motorhomes You'll Love

Have you ever wanted to hit the open road and travel the country in style? Shortly after the production of the Ford model T started in 1908, within 2 years came the first motorized campers. In the 1930's people started to upgrade their RV's to make their travels much more comfortable. Buying or building a motorhome is a good start, but it is not enough to stand out. Driving something absolutely bizarre will separate you from the rest. We have compiled some ridiculous motor homes you will love. Many are custom others are factory-made. In any case, we guarantee most people haven't seen RVs quite like the ones on this list. So, get ready for the awesomeness and absurdity below.

Monster Truck RV

This Monster Truck/RV combo seems like the perfect blend for the ultimate outdoors trip. It may take several fill ups, but this truck and RV combo could get you anywhere you want to go. Even the most remote locations on Earth are reachable in this ultimate off-road machine. It may cost more than your average RV trip, but it would be loads of fun at the end of it.

Ultimate Hummer Camper

This motorhome is what we might call an oxymoron. Take a look and immediately you think Hummer. Hummers are known for guzzling gas and big tires, which this one certainly is lacking. That's okay, though, the lack of four wheels is overcompensated by the addition of four tank-like treads. This thing can navigate just about any terrain and is certainly made for the rough and tumble that lies beyond what a standard Hummer is built for.

It was a custom build by the team at Southern Motors in an attempt to create the ultimate camping vehicle, and it looks like the guys succeeded, surpassing expectations. So what makes it an oxymoron then? Simple. It runs on bio diesel. This is the BFG (big friendly giant) of the environmentally friendly camping world. It may look rough and harsh, but it's only impact on the environment will be the terrain it navigates.

Semi-Truck Motorhome

This ridiculous camping motorhome is a beautiful marriage of a standard semi truck and a tour bus. It's called the Kingsley coach and has gotten more than its fair share of acclaim, both on the Internet and in the campgrounds. Rather than being known as a motorhome, it's known as the world's first class of Toterhome. Yet look close and you will find yourself scratching your head a bit.

If you know anything about this semi and the bus, you have to wonder where the engine is. Did they let the semi engine do all the work and keep that house upfront, or is the Kingsley coach driven by an engine in the back of the bus? We can't say for sure, but we are impressed either way. This thing would certainly be a boss on any campground. Good luck rolling that beast in and out of there, though. That's a lot of metal to move!

Here is another recreational vehicle similar to the Kingsley coach, but look a bit closer. Yes, it's still a ridiculous marriage between a semi and a motorhome, however this one is a real marriage between just that. The back end of the vehicle is not a tour bus. It's an actual RV. This means we know the engine is housed upfront, and produces plenty of power to move the motorhome from point A to point B. It just makes you wonder how creations like this came to be?

I mean really, did somebody get fed up with spending time in their sleeper cab and decide to indulge themselves a bit? Maybe it's the flipside of the coin. Rather than leave their work, they can take their work, and their family, anywhere they go. Who's to say, we don't know, that's for sure. Yet this RV still tops the book as one of the most awesomely ridiculous things we have yet to see.

Upcoming WEBINAR's **Oct 5, 4:00PM EST**

The webinar will be open questions from the attendees and submitted topics they wish to discuss.

Some topics that will be discussed:

**Used hitches and what are they worth?
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Using weight distribution with our receiver hitches**

If you have questions or items, you wish to discuss please email me your questions.

lstegemann@airsafehitches.com

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10 Great Destinations to Enjoy the Colors of Fall

Take a Beautiful Road Trip to Any of These Wonderful Autumn Locales

KRAIG BECKER

September 22, 2022

After a long, hot summer, fall is here at last, and with it comes cooler temperatures and shorter days. This is a season of transition, most notably seen in the changing colors of leaves on the trees. Over the span of a few weeks, the green hues of summer will give way to the crimsons and golds of autumn before the leaves disappear altogether ahead of the start of winter.

Autumn also happens to be the perfect time for an RV road trip. The cooler weather makes getting outdoors much more enjoyable, and the bright, bold colors can make even familiar landscapes feel fresh and new again. If you're looking to hit the road this fall, here are some classic destinations to enjoy the season.

The Adirondack Mountains, New York

Upstate New York is a beautiful destination anytime, but it truly comes alive in the fall. The slopes of the Adirondack Mountains are ablaze in reds, oranges, and yellows, making it a perfect place to go for a hike or just take a long scenic drive. Best of all, the area has one of the longest leaf-peeping seasons in the entire country, with trees in the northern Adirondacks changing color in late September, while the southern region doesn't transition until the final week of October.

Where to Camp: Ledgeview RV Park in Lake George, NY

Stowe, Vermont

Vermont has always been a popular destination for travelers in autumn, with Stowe ranking at the top of the list of places to visit. Known as “Fall’s Color Capital,” the quaint mountain village sits at the base of the state’s highest peak, with rolling mountains in every direction. This makes for a striking display that begins in late September and continues through the end of October, with plenty of festivals, outdoor events, and activities to celebrate the season.

Where to Camp: Lone Pine Campsites in Colchester, VT

Roanoke, Virginia

Located in the heart of the Blue Ridge Mountains, Roanoke is a fantastic destination for fall travelers. The city sits along the Blue Ridge Parkway and offers access to one of the more spectacular sections of the Appalachian Trail. Here, the leaves begin to change colors around mid-October and continue their vivid display into early November, allowing ample time to take in the scenery.

Where to Camp: Campground at Dixie Caverns in Salem, VA

The Ozarks

Spread out across parts of Arkansas, Missouri, and Oklahoma, the Ozarks are the perfect blend of mountains and dense forests found along the shores of stunning lakes. In the fall, this region is awash in colors, with more shades of orange and yellow than you ever thought could exist in nature. If the weather is warm, take a boat ride on the Lake of the Ozarks and get a good view from the water. Alternatively, take a drive on the Talimena National Scenic Byway, a 54-mile stretch of road that will leave you breathless. Peak leaf season runs from late October to early November.

Where to Camp: Crown Lake RV Resort in Horseshoe Bend, AR

Door County, Wisconsin

No list of fall destinations in the US would be complete without mentioning Wisconsin’s Door County. With its miles of scenic shorelines, thick forests, and historic lighthouses, it is easy to mistake this place for Maine or Massachusetts. From late September to mid-October, this peninsula along Lake Michigan is one of the best places in the entire country for enjoying the autumn colors. Go for a hike, paddle on the lake, or enjoy a leisurely drive on the treelined backroads. Either way, you’ll find plenty to love.

Where to Camp: Baileys Grove Campground in Baileys Harbor, WI

The North Shore Scenic Drive, Minnesota

Minnesota’s North Shore Scenic Drive is truly a hidden gem for travelers, particularly in the fall. The road wanders for more than 150 miles along the banks of Lake Superior, where ancient hardwood forests still dominate the landscape. In the autumn, those trees are painted with the most vibrant colors on Mother Nature’s palette, making it a premiere destination for outdoor enthusiasts and leaf peepers alike. The seasonal change usually begins in early September and runs into the first week of October, with the leaves falling not long after that.

Where to Camp: Grand Marais RV Park in Grand Marais, MN

Black Hills, South Dakota

Head to the Black Hills of South Dakota in early October to catch the annual transition of the trees to their autumn colors. The bright yellows, oranges, and reds stand out against the dark granite rock

faces that are common throughout the region. Go for a hike or drive in the Black Hills National Forest or nearby Custer State Park. Both locations are perfect for outdoor enthusiasts looking to stretch their legs on a breathtakingly beautiful trail.

Where to Camp: Beaver Lake Campground in Custer SD

Crested Butte, Colorado

Because it sits nearly 9,000 feet above sea level, autumn comes early in Crested Butte, Colorado. But when it does arrive, it is oh-so spectacular. The aspen trees that fall along the slopes of the Rocky Mountains turn to a bright golden hue by mid-September and remain that way before they begin to fall from their branches in early October. Visitors will enjoy hiking on the numerous trails that are accessible right from town, but the area is one of the best mountain biking destinations on the planet, so soak up the season on two wheels if you can.

Where to Camp: Tall Texan RV Parks & Cabins in Gunnison, CO

Taos, New Mexico

For an utterly unexpected autumn experience, turn your RV towards Taos, New Mexico. This eclectic mountain town is a bit off the beaten path but offers spectacular views at any time of the year. In the fall, a drive along the Enchanted Circle—an 84-mile loop around nearby Wheeler Peak—reveals a stunning array of colors in the trees of the surrounding national forest. Stands of golden aspen trees are especially noticeable starting in early November, allowing late-season travelers to enjoy the season when it has already ended in many other parts of the country.

Where to Camp: Road Runner RV Resort in Red River, NM

Mount Rainier National Park, Washington

The Pacific Northwest has a number of great locations to enjoy in the fall, but few destinations can match the spectacular beauty of Mount Rainier National Park. The park's titular mountain sits at the center of a massive outdoor wilderness that changes from lush greens to amber, crimson, and gold each autumn. Some of the best views are found along White Pass Scenic Byway or at the Sunrise and Chinook Passes. The park's cottonwood, willow, aspen, and tamarack trees start to change around mid-October, with the vibrant display lasting into early November.

8 Reasons to Go Camping in the Fall

By Jessica Sanders
ReserveAmerica.com

With the hot days of summer behind us, camping takes on a new life. Chilly mornings, perfect hiking weather and warm comfort food all come together to make fall camping a must-do for any outdoors enthusiast. If you're not convinced, here are seven very good reasons to keep your tent out just a little bit longer.

The Scenery

In almost all areas of the country beautiful colors reign supreme during the fall season, which makes it a picturesque time to go camping. Though New England is known for its array of seasonal hues, there are a number of places to go for a charming autumn trip. Some of the best states for fall camping are:

- Colorado

- Washington
- New Mexico
- Michigan
- North Carolina

The Weather

Through tired eyes you watch the sun crest in the east as you clutch your warm mug, steam rising into the fresh morning air. Coffee or hot chocolate never tasted so good as on a crisp autumn morning. With the right clothes and gear, these temperatures make fall camping more comfortable than in the hot humidity of summer.

Affordable Rates

After Labor Day many campgrounds drop their rates, stop taking reservations, and become first come first serve. With peak season behind you, now's the time to get the most affordable rates.

Less Bugs

Chilly fall temperatures chase the usual overflow of bugs to a warmer climate. This makes forested campsites, which are often flooded with mosquitos and nagging insects, more comfortable. Still, you should always keep bug spray packed, just in case.

Fall Camping Food

Cool weather makes comfort food a campsite staple. Warm up your evenings at camp with one of these cold-weather approved meals:

2 Quick Cast Iron Meals

A Good Night's Sleep

Sharing a small sleeping space in the summer months can make your hot tent even more unbearable. However, sleeping is more comfortable on cool fall nights. Snuggle up with your little ones or significant other for a long, restful sleep under the stars.

Different Activities

The fall season is prime time for an array of different camp activities. AccessCamping.com reports, "Autumn used to be a quiet, slow period in the country's parks, but things have changed, notes Paul Bambei, president and CEO of ARVC. He says that although fewer campers are traveling, park operators have discovered they can sometimes fill their campsites and cabins to capacity if they provide enough activities." When you go camping in the fall, try:

- Apple picking
- Pumpkin picking and carving
- Local harvest festivals like Oktoberfest
- Halloween events
- Fall fishing derbies

Fewer Crowds

Meeting new people is a great benefit of camping. Still, busy campgrounds can be overwhelming. With less people inclined to camp during the school year, you can enjoy having fewer neighbors and less crowded hiking trails.

Getting Your RV Ready For Winter: 5 Easy Steps To Follow As Winter Appears

By **Carlos Perry**

Everyone loves the summer because we all agree that it is okay to unwind, forget about your troubles. We love spending the summer on the road and getting away from the worries of everyday life and standard home care. For any plumbing or electrical problem, you are lucky if you are able to find a reliable 24-hour plumbing service or a handyman that can help. For many people, summer means it is time to relax and get away from it all.

If your family is like mine, you spent most of your summer in your RV. Maybe you went on a big cross country road trip, stuck your claim at a campsite, or found a nice beachside getaway. You got quality time with your loved ones in a quiet, private space.

The end of the season is always a bittersweet time because that means it is time to put away the RV for a few months until next summer. You want to make sure that you take the right steps so that your family is able to travel as soon as you are ready!

Follow these necessary end-of-season step so that your next season starts on the right foot:

Move Out of the RV

To fully take advantage of your vacation, you need to make sure your RV is stock with everything you could need. You have food, clothes, towels, and bedding. Maybe you brought toys and equipment for your kids to play with on the road and at the campsite. Maybe you attached your bikes to the RV so that you could go on a ride and get some exercise after sitting in the vehicle.

The point is you needed to bring a lot of stuff with you, and now that the season is over you need to unload all of that stuff. Throw out all of the extra food, or if possible, donate some of the non-perishable items. Pack up all of your clothes and linens and have a laundry day to clean them. Move the bikes, toys, and equipment back into the garage.

At the beginning of the season, make lists of everything you bring. That way, at the end of the season, you can account for all of the stuff as you pack up.

Packing up, throwing out, or donating extra food is the most important part of this step. The last thing you want when you get into your RV next year is a bad smell.

Prepare the Interior

Now that you have moved everything out of the RV, you can clean it. Check off everything on your list:

- Defrost the fridge
- Clean out the filters for the air conditioner.
- Vacuum and sweep the floors
- Clear all trash out of the driver's cab and living area.

Also, make sure you address your batteries. You can either disconnect the batteries and store them in a cool, dry place or you can leave them in the vehicle. Either way, you will have to check your batteries periodically to keep them from freezing or losing charge. You could also get an RV solar battery charger or a trickle charger that you can leave near the storage site to keep batteries charged and topped off, but still, you should check to make sure the batteries stay fully charged.

Protect Your Exterior

Before you put your RV away for the season make sure you prepare the exterior for storage.

A routine cleaning should be on the list (but not the only thing). Put your RV away spick and span. Anything in storage for an extended period of time will collect some amount of dirt and grime. You do not want storage dirt piling on top of road trip dirt. This will only delay your trip next year as you have more to clean.

If you can, get an exterior inspection done. Check all seams and windows in the body for cracks and holes and that could let water in.

You do not want to have to replace your tires as well! Fill your tires to the recommended pressure and cover them so they are protected from the sun and the weather.

Protect Your Water Lines

This is one of the most important steps in the process. You need to make sure that you winterize your water lines to prevent freezing or breaking during the off-season.

Start by draining your water heater and your freshwater pump. Turn off the heater so that the water inside is not hot when you empty it and you do not get burned. When draining your freshwater pump, watch closely so that it does not run for too long. You do not want to extend the pump when there is no water inside or you could damage it.

There are two main methods for protecting your water lines:

Air – Literally blowing the water through the RV's piping systems, and draining it so that there is a little water leftover as possible.

Note: If you do not already have an air compressor for your RV, now might be a good time to invest. Between pumping up flat tires and blowing out airlines, the compressor will pay for itself in no time.

Attach the air compressor tube to the RV and run it at a reasonable speed. About 30 psi will be enough to adequately clear out the pipes without damaging them. Then go to each fixture in the RV (faucets, toilets, showers) and open it allowing the air to push the water through.

Finally, fill the drains with antifreeze to stop any water that was caught in the P-traps in the system.

Antifreeze – Pump antifreeze through the RV's pipe system. You can either use an external hand pump or a pump bypass kit for this procedure.

Drain the systems in the same way that you did for the air compressor method.

Using a hand pump, attach a siphon tube from the antifreeze to the RV's water inlet. Similarly, go to each fixture in the RV and wait for the pink antifreeze to start running through. A bypass kit will draw antifreeze automatically into the RV internal water pump and push it through the system.

You do not want any leftover water in your RV's plumbing system so make sure you take the time to protect your pipes.

Storing Your RV

Your RV is cleaned out, protected and the pipes are dry. It's time to say goodbye for the winter. Your vehicle should be kept in a safe, secure place, under a covered area, and on a solid surface.

Ideally, you will have a car park or a garage to keep your RV in, but that is just not possible for some owners. If you do not have access to a covered location, you should invest in an RV cover for winter made of breathable material.

If you keep your RV in your driveway, avoid any trees that may fall in a heavy storm and avoid heavily windy areas. Check your city codes for bylaws about storing your RV in the street.

It is always sad to put your RV away for the season because that usually means the summer is officially over, but if you follow these steps for winterizing your vehicle, you can make sure that it will be ready to go next year

Your Horse Trailer in Winter

By Kevan Garecki

"Every mile is two in winter." - George Herbert

Horse trailers represent a significant investment, which is measured in dollars and, more importantly, in the comfort and safety of the horses that place their trust in us. A few carefully planned steps taken when preparing our rigs for winter can eliminate spring headaches, extend the useful life of the trailer, and increase the safety margin for our horses.

The first step in preparing the trailer for storage is to give it a thorough cleaning. This makes the rest of the task more pleasant and can alert us to previously unnoticed problems. Floor mats should be completely removed and sanitized, along with any other removable components such as dividers and chest or butt bars. The interior should be thoroughly washed out and allowed to dry completely before reinstalling the mats. In rigs that have wooden plank flooring this is essential to minimize rot and the resulting compromise to the strength of the floor. Ensuring that the interior is dry will also reduce condensation later on, slowing the inevitable march of metal corrosion, oxidation, mold, and mildew.

When returning the trailer to service in the spring, many folks discover that the hinge or latch that was a little sticky last year is now virtually immobilized after a long winter of collecting moisture. This is particularly true in coastal regions which frequently experience higher humidity levels. Finer assemblies such as locks, latches, and deadbolts should be lubricated and will benefit from additional protection against corrosion with a moderate application of graphite or white lithium grease. Latches, ramp and door hinges, and other large moving parts do well with a dose of a heavier aerosol lubricant such as Fluid Film® or Lubriplate. Hitch balls, weight equalizer bars, and other heavy components should be lubricated sparingly with high pressure grease.

Electrical components are susceptible to corrosion while in storage; a liberal coating of silicone spray applied to the truck and trailer electrical plugs will help to slow the process. It's a good idea to repair any inoperative lights before placing the rig in hibernation for winter – you're likely to forget about them seven months later when spring rolls around. When returning the rig to service next year, you may be faced with misbehaving trailer brakes and other mysterious electrical gremlins. The places to look for problems are the electrical plugs, the breakaway switch, and any junction boxes, fuse panels, or circuit breakers the truck and trailer might be equipped with. Many

newer breakaway systems are powered by a single use dry cell battery, which must be inspected at least once a year. Few dry cell batteries have a life span of more than a year or two, so unless your rig is almost new, chances are pretty good you'll need a new battery. Consider replacing the dry cell unit with an RV style deep cycle battery. This will offer independent power to trailer lights and accessories and provide significantly higher emergency reserves to the breakaway system.

If the trailer is parked outdoors, cover the tires when not in use to reduce weathering to the sidewalls. Tires typically lose two to five pounds per square inch (PSI) per month due to porosity. Fill them up to their maximum safe inflation pressure before parking the trailer at the end of the season, and always check pressures with a reliable gauge before returning the rig to service each year. If you don't think tires deserve much attention until they go flat, consider this: your tires are the only contact between the ground and your precious cargo!

Related: Incidents on the Road

We may not always have the luxury of choosing the best storage location for our trailers, but here are a few hints to keep in mind:

Avoid predominantly damp or shady areas as your trailer will suffer from increased condensation, mildew, metal oxidization, and tire degradation from the moisture.

Bumper-pull rigs should have the tongue covered during storage to lessen corrosion inside the jack mechanism.

Store on level ground, but use the jack to keep the trailer a little "nose high", which minimizes water pooling and allows interior condensation to run off the ceiling.

Consider emergencies; you never know when you'll need access to your rig in a hurry.

Ventilation is important. Open one or two windows or vents a little to avoid trapping moisture inside.

Periodically check the trailer over while it's in storage. Open doors and windows if weather permits and inspect wheel blocks, jacks, and other components for corrosion or cold weather damage.

Interior condensation can be reduced by adding a moisture trap such as the Dri-Z-Air®. If the trailer is parked in extremely damp or cold conditions, adding a small electrical auxiliary heater can make a big difference come spring. Care must be taken when choosing and routing extension cords for such a purpose. The longer the cord, the heavier it must be in order to handle the electrical load. Make sure the cord is not kinked, pinched, or routed over sharp edges that can cause frays and possible shorts, which can result in a fire. A small 1500 watt ceramic heater can keep a large tack room dry during even the soggiest West coast winter.

Tow vehicles often serve double duty and remain active throughout the year. Those that are parked along with the trailer need a bit of TLC as well. The same consideration for trailer body, interior components, tires, and electrical parts holds true for the tow vehicle. Consider fuel tanks by adding appropriate winterizing agents to the fuel. This can eliminate fuel system issues during trailering season. Most vehicles built after 1995 incorporate some level of computerization into the fuel, emissions, braking, and other critical systems. These computers require constant power at very low amperage. This steady draw can drain batteries completely over long periods. Consider connecting a low amperage trickle charger to the battery of the tow vehicle for a day or so every month. This can reduce start-up issues in the spring, and possibly extend the life of other electrical components such as the alternator.

Those who must brave the elements with their truck and trailer all year long should know that safety margins shrink exponentially when the weather deteriorates. Sometimes the wisest choice is

to postpone the trip until conditions improve. Before contemplating a drive in poor weather, consider this: there is nothing in a horse's instinctual response mechanism that can help him in the event of a crash. In other words, your horse's life is utterly dependent upon your judgment and experience.

There's an old saying: "Judgment is what we get from experience; experience is what we get from poor judgment."

Trip planning is always important, but is especially critical in harsh conditions. Check local weather forecasts for your destination and for locations along your route. Pay particular attention to mountain passes, areas with significant snowfall, and remote stretches of road. Weather can change suddenly, especially in mountainous regions, so check weather reports often. Most provincial transportation ministries have websites offering road and weather information and often have mobile-friendly versions that can be accessed easily with smartphones. Remember that trucks pulling gooseneck trailers fall under the heavy trailer category in most provinces, and are therefore subject to the same regulations as heavy trucks. The use of tire chains is mandatory when indicated.

Getting your trailer ready for winter is all about preparing for the worst. Pack spare tires, light bulbs, fuses, drive belts, and anything else that could burn out, wear out, or snap. If you're not mechanically inclined, ask your local repair shop to show you how to perform some basic fixes, such as changing a headlight, fuse, or tire. Pack an emergency kit with a blanket, spare gloves or mitts, flashlight (with extra batteries), a shovel, energy bars, and bottled water, matches, and camp fuel. Remember to bring extra clothes for warmth! These are recommended as general safety guidelines, but there are many regionally specific precautions that are beyond the scope of this article.

In winter, install four winter tires regardless of whether your vehicle is a four- or two-wheel drive vehicle. Winter tires handle differently than summer or all-season tires. Mixing these designs can make the vehicle handle unpredictably in bad weather – which not the time you want your truck to develop a mind of its own! All-season tires are meant for general driving and are not intended for use on snow or ice. They are an acceptable alternative for those living in temperate areas, specifically places that get very little or no snow at all. All-season tires have poorer traction on snow and ice. They will also become harder in cold weather, which negatively affects the handling of the vehicle. When snow flies, it's time for snow tires! In many regions, snow tires are required by law between October and April. If you are involved in a crash and are using all-season tires in snowy conditions, insurance companies reserve the right to deny your claim. You can automatically be found at fault, making you liable for other damages, and will be required to repay recovery and towing expenses.

Horses inside a trailer need a constant supply of fresh air, but during winter we must be mindful of wind chill factors. Stock trailers may need to have open sides covered in order to lessen the amount of cold air entering the trailer. Keep roof vents open towards the rear, prompting increased airflow at the head level without significantly lowering the temperature on the floor. In sub-zero temperatures the floor can become much colder than the rest of the trailer. Bedding in livestock trailers is required by law, and in winter adequate bedding is essential and can protect against frostbite and hypothermia. Dress your horse for loading and transport in the same manner as you would for turning him out during winter. Dressing Dobbin in a blanket for the first time just prior to being transported can actually cause him to lose body heat. Horses have an amazingly complex heat control system that redirects blood flow and controls tiny muscles in the skin. These muscles raise the hair to trap insulating air between the coat and the skin. Placing a blanket over a horse with a winter coat flattens the hair and can cause the horse's natural thermostat to malfunction.

There is little need to adjust feeding regimens during winter unless the horse has a pre-existing condition that dictates such a measure. Withholding grain during the 12 hours prior to loading is recommended. The stress of transport can slow or even halt gut motility, and grain fermenting in a slow hindgut has caused many an episode of colic. If you're worried about keeping your horse warm when it's snowy, increasing the fiber intake will do more to stoke his internal furnace than

anything else. Digesting forage generates far more internal heat than digesting grain or other concentrated feeds. Water intake is always a challenge while transporting horses, but extreme temperatures can turn that challenge into a nightmare. A heated water tank in your trailer allows you to offer your passengers water that is at room temperature, which will help increase their water intake. Few folks go to such lengths and so the next best option for a long winter trip is to fill a large container (such as a jerry can that has not been used for fuel or the big blue containers used for camping) with water and keep it in the cab of the truck or other heated area. This has the added benefit of offering the horses water they are familiar with.

We arm ourselves against winter, and it only makes sense to do the same for our trailer rigs. There are many benefits to doing so, including an extended life for your trailer, easier operation when the rig is returned to service, fewer breakdowns during the towing season, and most importantly, a safer and more comfortable ride for your precious cargo!

AirSafeHitches.com



Why Use an Air Hitch?

AirSafe is committed to giving you the safest and most comfortable ride possible. We offer the largest selection of air hitches in the industry, including 5th wheel hitches, gooseneck hitches, and receiver hitches for trailer hitches for trucks.

Our hitches utilize the most innovative engineering and design available on the market today. With a fully height adjustable design, AirSafe hitches are easy to use and don't cause any headaches.

Air Safe Hitches also delivers the ultimate in safety.

With only 10% trailer inertia, our hitches make your vehicles sway a lot less. By evenly distributing the weight between the trailer and the tow vehicle, you will have more ability to brake and steer safely.

AirSafe Hitches are the safest way to tow anything, and they provide the most comfort of any ride. If that isn't enough to convince you, these hitches are also affordable. With AirSafe Hitches, you get safety, comfort, and savings all in one.

5th Wheel Hitches - Omni-Directional 4 air bag vs competitor 2 air bag system. A four-air bag hitch is designed to allow the hitch head to move on the air bags in any direction based on articulation from the trailer itself. The result of such continuous motion results in a smooth ride and decrease chocking and surging forces from the trailer on the truck. In addition to the movement from the trailer, the 4-airbag hitch support 100% of the pin weight, increasing the effectiveness of the air springs. This results in a smooth and controlled motion for the trailer on the truck.

Receiver Hitches - If you want a smoother ride and the ultimate in control, then you need the advantage provided by Air Safe Hitches with the Receiver Hitch by AirSafe™. With an Air Safe Receiver Hitch you will get a 90% smoother ride than with a traditional hitch, which can save you money. Glide across the highways and roads avoiding the constant bouncing, which leads to a decrease in gas mileage and early wear and tear on your tires. Our Air Safe Receiver Hitches also reduce stress on your truck and trailer suspension and help eliminate breakages inside the trailer. Our design allows total air ride vs the Shocker Hitch with the hinged approach.

[Gooseneck Hitches](#) – Air Safe offers the industry’s largest selection of air hitches. Innovation and engineering insures you receive the safest and smoothest ride. “Enjoy the ride, arrive alive.” With AIRSAFE™ you stop the flow of shock flow between the tow vehicle to the trailer and greatly reduce the explosion of energy when these two forces meet. The patented AIRSAFE™ hitches are engineered so the connection to the trailer is separated from the connection to the tow vehicle by an industrial strength airbag. Air Safe Gooseneck Hitches by AIRSAFE™ are simply the best air product money can buy. They are engineered with you and your precious cargo in mind. Simply remove your existing gooseneck tube and coupler and replace it with the AIRSAFE™ system. Available in round and square necks.

[Click to check out the benefits of an air hitch vs a rigid hitch.](#)

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