

Vehicle Modifications & non-standard parts .....	164
Motorhome exterior .....	164
Motorhome interior .....	166
Winterisation .....	168
AL-KO exhaust system.....	171
Caring for the environment .....	171

## MODIFICATIONS

**VEHICLE MODIFICATIONS & NON-STANDARD PARTS**

As the owner of a Swift Group Product, you are able to make any modifications you wish, either by yourself or through a dealer, without affecting the Swift 3/6 Year Warranty.

However, please be aware that any issues, resulting directly or indirectly, from a modification or fitment of a non-standard part, will not be covered by The Swift Group Warranty.

**WD40 is not recommended for external or internal use**

**WD40 attacks paintwork and sealants.**

**If a lubricant is required for Interior hinges, Sliding door tracks, Exterior door hinges, Plastic tracking etc. We recommend "Ambersil 40+" this is readily available from most DIY/ Automotive spare part retailers**

Before carrying out any DIY work within the warranty period (3/5) years please check with your Swift Group dealer.

**MOTORHOME EXTERIOR****Aluminium Panels**

The stove enamelled paintwork is very durable and easy to clean owing to the high gloss properties.

**Plastic Panels (GRP/ABS)**

These are used for front and rear panels and, in some cases for the roof.

**Cleaning**

For both aluminium panels and plastic panels.

1. Wash the motorhome regularly with mild detergent. Rinse with cold water and leather off.
2. For better protection a similar coloured good quality car wax may be applied.

For sealed areas a mild soap is the best way to clean without affecting the sealant.

Acid or alkaline based cleaners or solvents should not be used.

**WARNING:** Under no circumstances use any abrasive cleaning agents or solvents on the exterior. Do not wash your motorhome with a high pressure washer as these can permanently damage the seals of your motorhome.

Care should be taken as the silicon in some polishes can attack the rubber used on the exterior for seals and gaskets.

**Acrylic Windows**

Wash windows carefully, as you would with the paintwork of your car, do not scrub windows prior to removing surface dirt and film with a hose pipe - trapped dirt could cause scratching.

Wash with a solution of warm soapy water, windows can then be dried off with a leather.

Small scratches can be removed, consult your dealer.

Catches and stays do not require any special attention or lubrication.

## Condensation

### What is condensation?

Condensation is the change of water from its gaseous form (water vapour) into liquid water. Condensation generally occurs in the atmosphere when warm air rises, cools and loses its capacity to hold water vapour.

As a result, excess water vapour condenses to form droplets.

### Why condensation occurs

Condensation occurs when warm moist air meets a cold surface. The risk of condensation therefore depends upon how moist the air is and how cold the surfaces of the vehicle are. Both of these depend to some extent on how the vehicle is used. In a motorhome with a cold outside wall, if the temperature of the wall falls below the dew point temperature, it is quite normal for condensation to occur predominantly on the external walls.

### When condensation occurs

Condensation occurs usually in winter, because the motorhome is cold and because skylights, windows and doors are opened less and therefore the moist air cannot escape.

### How condensation occurs

Condensation occurs often for short periods in bathroom and kitchen areas because of the steamy atmosphere, and quite frequently for long periods in unheated areas; it also occurs in cupboards or corners of rooms where ventilation and movement of air is restricted.

### What is important

Two things are particularly important:

- To provide ventilation so that moist air can escape.
- To use the heating reasonably

## How can you prevent condensation

Provide ventilation so that moist air can escape.

- a) Good ventilation of kitchens when washing, cooking or drying damp clothes is essential.  
Open the skylights or windows slightly, but keep the door closed as much as possible.
- b) After showering, keep the bathroom window or skylights open, and shut the bathroom door long enough to dry off the room.
- c) In all other areas provide some ventilation. Fixed ventilation is provided in accordance with BS EN 721: 1998 this is through skylights and 'Heki roof lights' in the roofs and from ventilators through the floor under cookers, doors and in bed boxes it is important not to block these.

Too much ventilation in cold weather is uncomfortable and wastes heat. All that is needed is a very slightly opened window or skylights. Opening a skylight or 'Heki' rooflights partially or windows opened to about 1cm will usually be sufficient.

## Provide reasonable heating

- a) Do not use portable paraffin or flueless gas heaters at all.
- b) If drying damp clothes or towels, open a window enough to ventilate the area and turn on the electric element of the space heater but do not hang items over the heater.
- c) Try to make sure that all areas are at least partially heated. Condensation most often occurs in unheated areas.

## EXTERIOR AND INTERIOR MAINTENANCE

- d) To prevent condensation, the heat has to keep room surfaces reasonably warm. It can take a long time for a cold motorhome to warm up, so it is better to have a small amount of heat for a long period than a lot of heat for a short time.

Motorhomes use only carefully selected insulation materials but unlike most rooms at home all walls are exterior walls, so they lose heat through all walls as well as the roof and floor.

Even in a well insulated motorhome with reasonable ventilation, it is likely that during cold weather (less than 10 deg C) condensation will occur. Ideally the temperature should be kept about 20°C although this is not always possible.

### Mould growth

Any sign of mould growth is an indication of the presence of moisture and if caused by condensation gives warning that heating or ventilation, may require improving.

### New vehicles

New motorhomes often take a long time before they are fully 'dried out' because of moisture in the materials used in the manufacture. While this is happening they need extra heat and ventilation. At least during the first winter trips and may require more heat than they will need in subsequent winters journeys. Allowance should be made for this.

### Changing Exterior Bulbs

ALWAYS REPLACE LIKE FOR LIKE

For individual replacement bulb specification, refer to your Service Handbook.

## MOTORHOME INTERIOR

Follow these guidelines to ensure your investment is receiving the very best attention.

### Side Walls, Roof Lining

A simple wipe over with a damp cloth and a very mild detergent is all that is needed.

### Soft Furnishings

Should be vacuumed occasionally to remove grit and sand and help to keep its smart appearance over the lifetime of the upholstery. The upholstery can be cleaned with a mild, reputable upholstery cleaner. It is recommended that the curtains and pelmets are specialist cleaned only. The foam used in cushions is manufactured to meet fire regulations. It requires time to return to its normal position after prolonged use.

### Work Surfaces

You should not stand very hot items on any of the work surfaces, especially models with polycarbonate moulded sinks and drainers.

### Cupboard Catches

It is advisable to lubricate all cupboard catches, sliding bolts and hinges from time to time. We recommend "Ambersil 40+" this is readily available from most DIY/ Automotive spare part retailers

### Kitchen Equipment

All the thermoplastic parts in these areas have easy clean surfaces. To ensure long life and to prevent damage you must not use any cleaning materials at all and ensure water temperatures do not exceed 70°C (putting cold water in first is suggested). After every use it is essential that you rinse with clean water only and wipe with a soft damp cloth. Failure to follow these simple instructions may result in premature failure or cracking which will not be covered by any guarantees (including extended warranties).

### Bathroom/Shower

These products should be cleaned immediately after use. Apply a warm, mild soapy water solution with a soft cloth and rinse with clean water immediately. Abrasive materials must never be used. For stubborn stains "Thetford Bathroom Cleaner" is recommended as the use of other cleaners may harm these products, cause premature failure and will invalidate the warranty. "Thetford Bathroom Cleaner" is available from most motorhome/caravan dealer shops.

### Furniture

A simple wipe over with a damp cloth should be all that is required. Polishing with a proprietary brand of wax polish enhances and maintains furniture in showroom condition.

It must be remembered that because the frames of the doors are made of ash, which is a natural product, they can be affected by temperature and humidity and may bow under certain conditions. As conditions change they should revert to their original positions.

### Kitchen Drainer and Cutting Board

You should not stand hot items on to the removable plastic kitchen drainer. To wash use only warm soapy water, do not use chemicals and bleach.

### Changing interior bulbs

The majority of interior lights are LED, and in the unlikely event of a failure, the replacement of the whole unit is required. It is not possible to replace the "bulb" on these units.

For non LED lights remove the lens or lampshade to access the bulb.

**ALWAYS REPLACE LIKE FOR LIKE**

For individual replacement bulb specification, refer to your Service Handbook.

### Locker Header Fluorescent Tube Replacement

- Ensure power supply to light is switched off.
- Open locker, light is mounted above. Locate fixing screws (orientated towards ceiling) and remove.
- In the case of a side locker, a small furniture component onto which the light fitting is secured can now be removed.
- In the case of an upper welsch dresser ( or similar), a larger component carrying all the lights from above that piece of furniture may detach.
- Once the appropriate light fitting has been accessed, the tube should be twisted along its length to release the tube and allow it to be lifted from the fitting.
- Please see the bulb replacement chart for details of the type of tube fitted. In addition, different 'colour temperatures' of bulb are available. For a consistent appearance replace tubes with those of equivalent colour temperature: This will be stated on the fitted tube in the format '4200K' or similar.

# WINTERISATION

## WINTERISATION

The Swift Group recommends the following winterisation points for customers:

### Servicing

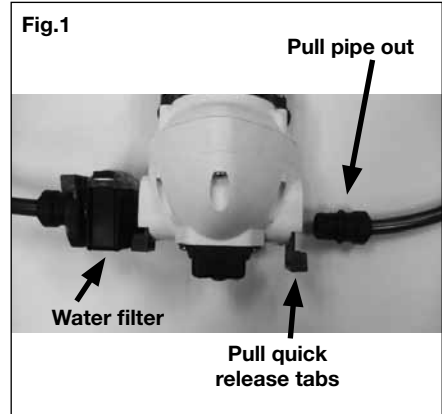
Arrange (in advance) the yearly service and habitation check, if the motorhome's next service is due while the vehicle is stored.

### Plumbing

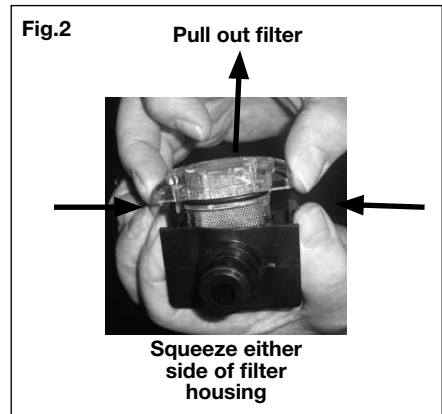
Water expands as it is frozen, and so trapped water, when it expands, can damage the tap / valve / pump or pipe it is trapped within. For this reason, (in addition to reasons of hygiene), the water system should be fully drained when not in use, particularly in colder weather.

- Depending on model, open the fresh water tank drain valve to drain the tank, and leave open or remove the tank drain bung inside the tank, and leave open
- Open the drain valve (yellow handle) next to water heater, and leave open.
- Fully open all the taps and shower mixer, move mixer position to the middle, and leave all taps in the open position.
- Unscrew the shower head and shower hose, shake out remaining water and allow water to drain. It is advised to leave the shower head and hose disconnected.
- Run pump for a short time, until all water is expelled.
- After a short while the majority of water will have left the plumbing system. At this point however it is still important to ensure that the pump itself is 'dry'. During this part of the winterisation, a suitable absorbent cloth or container should be used to catch a small amount of spilled water that will result.

Disconnect the pipe work from the pump by pulling the blue quick release tabs, at either side of the pump, at right angles to the pipe work, then pulling the pipe and connectors from the pump. See Fig.1 Run the pump for a short while to expel any remaining water within the pump.



This is a good time to de-assemble and clean the pump filter. Squeeze either side of the filter housing to release the retaining tabs and pull the filter cassette out of the housing. See Fig 2



- Fit the cowl cover to the Truma Ultrastore, model specific.

- Open the waste tank drain valve, collecting the waste water in a suitable container, and leave open. Dispose of the waste water in a designated waste water area, clean waste pipes and tanks using a sterilising fluid. See "Waste Tank" section under services Page 45

## Electrical

If vehicle is being stored while connected to 230v Mains Hook-up:

- Ensure that the leisure battery is connected and the 20A local fuse(s) is connected.
- The isolator switch on PSU should be in the 'ON' position, however, the control panel should be switched 'OFF'.
- If Alde system is installed, there is a frost protection setting, which can be used. See Alde user instruction manual.
- Vehicles can be left in this condition for extended periods, with the charger operating to maintain the battery. However, periodic maintenance and inspection is recommended, this should include the battery condition.

If vehicle is being stored not connected to 230v Mains Hook-up:

- Charge the leisure battery for 24 hours prior to placing motorhome in storage.
- Ensure the isolation button on PSU is in the 'OFF' position.
- Disconnect the negative terminal of the leisure battery or batteries.
- The battery should not be adversely affected by winter temperatures but the level of charge should be maintained to maximise the life span of the battery. This can be achieved using an automotive type battery charger as and when required.
- Disconnect the vehicle battery negative terminal. Check the charge of the battery every three months. (See Vehicle Inactivity section in the Fiat/Peugeot handbook).

## Gas system

- Ensure the gas supply is isolated at the gas bottle, and ensure that the gas manifold taps are off.
- Check the age and condition of the high pressure gas hose and regulator, and replace if required.

## Appliances

Check the battery expiry date on the smoke alarm and CO detector and replace or remove as required.

- Ensure the fridge is turned off.
- Clean the inside of the fridge.
- Prop the fridge door open, and if possible, the internal freezer compartment door for ventilation.
- Fit fridge vent winter covers (if available).
- Ensure all hob / oven / microwave surfaces are clean.
- If the motorhome is going to be left connected to 230v supply while not in use, ensure the microwave is unplugged.
- Clean the toilet and empty the cassette and lubricate the seals with an acid free lubricant such as Thetford High Grade Seal Lubricant. See Thetford toilet Users manual

## WINTERISATION

**Exterior (Body / Chassis)**

- Ensure that all windows, skylights and access doors are closed and secured.
- Ensure all fixed ventilation points (high and low) are clear from debris and obstructions.
- Ensure the vehicle is not parked where falling debris (i.e. leaves, tree sap) could cause damage.
- Avoid leaving the vehicle parked in soft ground, long grass or a potential area where standing water may form.
- Lubricate relevant points on the chassis.

**Wheels and Tyres**

- Do not store in one position with partially deflated tyres. The tyre walls will suffer and do present a real danger of blow outs, especially when travelling at faster speeds than are allowed in the UK. The wheels should be turned every couple of weeks. If you are removing the wheels, follow the jacking procedure for changing a wheel. Check your tyres regularly for signs of age and deterioration, particularly wear, cracking and blistering. If in doubt consult a reputable tyre fitter.
- A purpose made cover maybe used, but please ensure the cover is a good fit, breathable and securely fitted.

**Note:** A poorly fitted cover can rub and damage the bodywork. Non-breathable covers will encourage mould to grow.

**Interior (Furniture / furnishings)**

- Open all lockers and internal doors, to ensure good circulation.
- Remove cushions and store them in a dry location or ensure all cushions are placed in a well ventilated area.
- Close all blinds and curtains. Customers are reminded to check the tension on blinds after storage if left closed for long periods.

- Thoroughly ventilate the motorhome by opening doors or windows periodically.
- Placing water absorbent crystals in the van during the winter months, will help reduce moisture levels and mould growth.
- We do not recommend leaving portable heaters in the van unattended.

**Recomissioning the Water System**

Re-connect the water pump by positioning the pipe connectors into the pump housing and pushing the blue tabs into position. It is advisable, after a period on non-use, to flush the water system with a sterilising fluid such as Milton 2. Fill the fresh water tank with water and sterilising fluid (Refer to sterilising fluid instructions for the amount to use). Turn the pump on and open all the taps, ensuring that the water drains away safely to the waste tank. When the waste tank is full empty the fluid into a designated waste water area. Re-fill the tank with fresh water and flush through the system as described above; repeat this until all traces of the sterilising fluid have been flushed out. (See "priming the Water System" and "Waste Tank" sections on page 44/45)

Prepare the toilet system by adding water and Thetford fluid to the toilet waste tank. See "Preparing the Thetford Cassette Toilet for Use" on page 146.

**Appliances**

Before starting motor caravanning after storage, check all gas appliances and electrical points.

**Note:** Preferably not less than once a year, the electrical installation should be inspected and tested by a qualified electrician.

After storage it is advisable to air the Motorhome and clean throughout, especially cooking appliances and the refrigerator.

Replace the bedding if they were removed for storage.

**Important:** Always follow the manufacturers recommended procedures after use of fitted equipment in the Motorhome, before storing for any length of time

## CHASSIS AND REAR AXLE

Some models are built on Fiat/Peugeot base vehicles, the chassis of which has been converted by AL-KO. This conversion provides a hot dipped galvanised steel chassis coupled with a wide track rear axle utilising steel torsion bar suspension, imparting vastly improved stability and road holding.

## AL-KO EXHAUST SYSTEM

A standard Fiat/Peugeot exhaust system is fitted, utilising an AL-KO modified tail pipe, available through your approved dealer. A standard Fiat exhaust system is fitted to all other models, with the addition of a Swift Group tail pipe.

## CARING FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

After many years of service you may decide that your motorhome has become beyond economic repair and should be disposed of. Please ensure that you comply with the end of life vehicle legislation and take it to an authorised treatment facility where it will be properly dealt with to minimise any negative environmental impact. The transaction will be logged at the DVLA, identifying that you are no longer the owner of the vehicle.

MAINTENANCE