

# **INTRODUCTION**

# INTRODUCTION

Dear Coachworks Owner:

Welcome - Thanks for choosing a Blue Bird Coachworks!

We want to personally welcome you to our Family of Friends and we invite you to visit us at our Fort Valley facilities whenever you wish. We are always happy to see you and we are deeply interested in your experiences as you use and enjoy your Coachworks motor home. We recognize that it is our relationship to you, the Coachworks owner, which contributes most to the prestige of ownership of this finest over-the-road motor home.

We trust that as you become more intimately acquainted with your new motor home, the sound, careful thoughts behind every aspect of its design will become increasingly evident and your initial decision to choose Coachworks will be positively reinforced with every mile.

We encourage that you take the time to become familiar with this introduction section before taking your first trip in your new motor home. Inside you will find information that will be beneficial on future trips with your motor home such as: vehicle loading, emergency exits, safety information, etc.

We acknowledge the good faith you have demonstrated in our product. All of us at Coachworks take great pride in our handiwork and want to do everything possible to engender in you what has become the Coachworks experience; the deep satisfaction that comes from years of a sure confidence of having chosen the very best.

**BLUE BIRD**  
**Coachworks®**  
**Limited Warranty**  
**450 LXi Recreational Vehicle**

Blue Bird Coachworks, a division of the Blue Bird Body Company, warrants each 450 LXi to the original purchaser to be free from defects in material and workmanship under normal use and service within the limits described below:

1. For a period of five (5) years/50,000 miles/80,000 kilometers, whichever occurs first, from date of delivery to the original purchaser, Coachworks warrants the:
  - a. Chassis frame rails and cross members to be free from defects in structural integrity (breaking or cracking).
  - b. Body shell (those structural metal components welded or riveted together forming floor, sidewalls, roof, front and rear sections) to be free from defects in structural integrity (breaking or cracking) including rust-through.
  - c. Paint adhesion to the body shell (those structural components forming side walls, roof, front and rear sections). Paint failures caused by corrosive atmospheric conditions and road chemicals are specifically not covered.
2. For a period of three (3) years/36,000 miles/60,000 kilometers, whichever occurs first from the date of delivery to the original purchaser, Coachworks warrants all other components not covered in sections 1 and 3 except diesel engines, automatic transmissions, tires and batteries, which are warranted by their manufacturers.
3. For a period of one (1) year from the date of delivery to the original purchaser, Coachworks warrants plasma televisions installed by Coachworks.

For demonstrators, the delivery date to the dealer will be the warranty start date. Mileage accumulated by the factory or dealer apply to any warranty mileage limits stated above. This limited warranty applies to the original purchaser during the warranty period. A transfer request and fee are required within thirty (30) days of resale to transfer the warranty.

Blue Bird Coachworks' obligation covered in this limited warranty is limited to the repair or replacement of such parts as shall, under normal use and service, appear to have been defective in workmanship or material. Without restricting the generality of this limitation, loss of use, commercial loss, maintenance, towing charges, lodging, telephone calls, inconvenience, and loss of time are specifically not covered. This warranty shall not apply to any parts or components which must be repaired or replaced during the warranty period as a result of what is, in the opinion of Coachworks, normal wear and/or deterioration in the course of normal operations and use, accident damage, misuse and/or abuse.

If distributors, dealers or customers have any vehicle modifications or equipment installations performed without the written approval of Coachworks to the extent of modifications or equipment installations adversely affect other vehicle components or performance. Coachworks shall not accept any product liability or claims under the terms of the limited warranty. These claims become the sole responsibility of the company performing the modifications and/or installations.

ANY IMPLIED WARRANTIES, INCLUDING THOSE OF MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS, ARE LIMITED TO THE WARRANTY PERIOD OF THIS WRITTEN WARRANTY. BLUE BIRD COACHWORKS SHALL NOT BE LIABLE FOR INCIDENTAL OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES RESULTING FROM BREACH OF THIS WRITTEN WARRANTY OR ANY IMPLIED WARRANTY. NO PERSON, INCLUDING SALESPERSONS, DEALERS, SERVICE CENTERS, OR FACTORY REPRESENTATIVES OF BLUE BIRD COACHWORKS, IS AUTHORIZED TO MAKE ANY REPRESENTATION OR WARRANTY CONCERNING COACHWORKS PRODUCTS EXCEPT TO REFER TO THIS LIMITED WARRANTY.

Blue Bird Coachworks reserves the right to make changes in design and changes or improvements upon its products without imposing any obligations upon itself to install the same option upon products theretofore manufactured. Defects shall be repaired promptly after discovery of the defect and within the warranty period as stated herein. All claims for warranty adjustments must be received by Blue Bird Coachworks not later than 30 days after the repair date, and shall be channeled through an authorized Blue Bird Coachworks dealer or factory representative. Any suit alleging a breach of this limited warranty or any other alleged warranty must be filed within one year of breach.

All rights under this limited warranty shall be governed by the law of Georgia, U.S.A.

**Blue Bird Coachworks**

One Wanderlodge Way  
Fort Valley, Georgia 31030, U.S.A.

**NOTE: This information was correct at time of printing. For any vendor changes made to equipment and/or manual after printing date refer to the actual vendor owner manual supplied with motor home.**



## INTRODUCTION

This section of your Owner's Manual contains general hints and recommendations for using your motor home. Checklists and suggestions are offered which cover just about every phase of motor home travel.

The remaining sections of this manual describe the operation and use of the individual items and systems which comprise your motor home.

Manufacturer's manuals for components and appliances are included in your owner's kit. If the information you need is not contained in this manual, refer to the specific manufacturers literature supplied in the owner's kit.

We hope that this manual will help answer questions that may arise about the use, operation and maintenance of your motor home. Any suggestions or recommendations that you might have for including or expanding on material of interest will be carefully considered for incorporation in future publications. We are always interested in providing our motor home owners with the most current and comprehensive information about our product.

### *Some Other Thoughts to Consider*

- Automobile insurance to cover you and your family.
- Avoid cash. Use traveler's checks and credit cards wherever possible.
- Confirm reservations well in advance of arrival.
- Make a clothing check list for everyone.

### **Citizen's Band Transceiver**

You might also bear in mind that your motor home is equipped with a CB unit (Citizen's Band receiver-transmitter) In the event of an emergency situation which requires outside assistance; remember to call for help on Channel 9. This channel is restricted to emergency use only and it is monitored 24 hours per day! Don't hesitate to use your CB if you see someone else in need of assistance.

### **Hot Weather Operation**

Wherever possible, choose a shaded parking site so that the motor home will be cooler during the hottest part of the day. The optional patio awning will be especially useful in lowering inside temperature. Air conditioning units are indispensable in hot climates. Keep in mind that their proper operation depends on adequate line voltage. Low voltage causes motors to run hotter and reduces compressor motor life. Supply voltage in some campgrounds may not be as high as necessary, especially where there are heavy loads on the lines from other air conditioners. Check the right hand overhand auxiliary panel 120 VAC meters when in doubt.

### **Cold Weather Operation**

If frost or condensation accumulates in closets or cabinets during long periods of cold weather operation, leave the doors to these areas slightly ajar to provide air circulation. Be sure that roof vents are open when using the cook top.

### **Campground Courtesy**

Don't forget the "Golden Rule". Being considerate of your neighbors will help make friends. A few of the "do's" and "don'ts" are:

- Good housekeeping – put all litter in the proper receptacles and leave your site neat and clean.
- Don't allow your water or sewer hook-ups to leak.
- Respect your neighbor's desire to retire at an early hour. Avoid loud noises and bright lights after dark.
- Drive slowly through camp areas at any hour for the safety of pedestrians.

### **Insurance**

As with your automobile, it is important that you have adequate protection with insurance coverage for personal liability, property damage, comprehensive, collision, medical payments, loss of use, etc.



## Canadian and Mexican Insurance

Insurance for travel in Canada can usually be covered by your present U.S. policy for the recreational vehicle, often at no extra cost. Consult your individual company for procedures and be sure of your coverage before entry.

For travel in Mexico (at the present time), there are no U.S. insurance companies that can provide recognized Mexican coverage, with the exception of that required for travel through a narrow strip of Mexican territory in and around parts of entry and the U.S./Mexican border.

Mexican insurance is controlled and rates are set by the Mexican government. There are several reliable companies handling Mexican insurance, with similar rates for the necessary coverage. The principle differences between them are the "fringe benefits", received in the form of informational travelogues and other helpful information, such as dining places considered acceptable for sanitary conditions, fuel stations, and so on.

Some insurance services include detailed route maps with "where to stay" recommendations and "things to see" mile-by-mile (or kilometer-by-kilometer post). While the rates set by Mexico may seem quite expensive at first glance, you usually end up not spending quite as much as expected because you can usually arrange to hold your state-side policy in abeyance during the same period you are in Mexico, thus not having to pay unnecessarily for double coverage. In addition, you may be able to obtain substantial refunds on the Mexican collision insurance after your return to the U.S. Be sure to obtain a certification from the park operator at each location in Mexico to certify the dates that your motor home was parked there. If your motor home is parked for most of the time, instead of constantly traveling, your refund may be a major portion of the original cost. This feature is referred to as the "in-storage" credit. (It is a good idea to always check with your insurance company before taking a trip to find out whether applicable insurance rules and regulations have changed. Keep up to date on your coverage.)

Carry insurance papers at all times!

## Safety Considerations

### Using LP Gas

Check for leaks at the connections on the LP gas system soon after purchase and initial filling of the LP tank; continued periodic checks of the system are recommended. Even though the manufacturer and dealer have already made tests for leakage, this check is advisable because of the vibrations encountered during travel. Apply a soapy water solution to the outside of gas piping connections to find gas leakage (bubbles). Do not use products that contain ammonia or chlorine. Usually, tightening of connections will be sufficient. If not, ask your authorized dealer service to make the needed repairs. Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) is heavier than air. Leaking gas tends to flow to low places, and will sometimes pocket in a low area. LP gas can usually be detected by an identifiable odor characteristic to garlic.

**!!CAUTION:** Never light a match or allow any open flame in the presence of leaking gas! Be sure that the main LP gas supply valve is closed or galley panel switch is OFF during refueling to prevent accidental ignition of gas fumes by appliance ignitors.

**▲WARNING:** When motor home is to be stored in a confined area, turn off the LPG at the main tank shutoff valve, or more conveniently, at the galley systems control panel. Your Wanderlodge has been provided with an automatic 80% fill valve to protect you from the dangers of an overfilled LPG tank.



## Electrical Systems

Your motor home has been engineered and checked for your complete electrical system safety. The motor home is wired with Multiplex wiring throughout. Circuit breakers and fuses are installed to protect electrical circuits from overloading. Before making modifications or additions to the electrical system, consult your dealer for assistance in obtaining a safe and secure installation. For more information on the wiring system refer to Electrical Information found later in manual. Do not "jump" circuit protectors!

## Emergency Stops

Always carry road flares and/or reflective triangular highway warning markers for emergency warning display. Pull off the roadway as far as possible when changing flats or for other emergency situations. Turn on your hazard warning flashers when parked alongside a roadway, even if only for a short while. Have your motor home occupants leave the vehicle and stand clear of the area when parked on the edge of a highway.

## In Case of Tire Blowout

As a result of extensive tests, leading tire manufacturers recommend the following when a blowout occurs:

1. Quickly step on the gas
2. Adjust steering as needed.
3. Stay off the brakes.
4. Keep driving until you find a safe place to pull over.

## Engine Exhaust Gas

Avoid inhaling exhaust gases because they contain carbon monoxide, which by itself is colorless and odorless. Carbon monoxide is a dangerous gas that can cause unconsciousness and is potentially lethal. If at any time you suspect that any exhaust fumes are entering the passenger compartment, have the cause determined and corrected as soon as possible.

The best protection against carbon monoxide entry into the vehicle body is properly maintained engine exhaust system, body and ventilation system. It is a good practice to have the exhaust system and body inspected by a competent mechanic each time the vehicle is raised for lubrication or oil change. It should also be inspected whenever a change is noticed in the sound of the exhaust system, and if the exhaust system, underbody or rear of the vehicle has been damaged.

To allow proper operation of the vehicle's ventilation system, keep ventilation inlets clear of snow, leaves or other obstructions.

Sitting in a parked vehicle with the engine on for extending periods, without proper ventilation, is not recommended!

## More Safety Considerations

- Sanitize fresh water supply system periodically.
- Prevent water connection fittings from contacting the ground or drain the hose to reduce chances of contamination.
- Consider using a qualified technician for repairing gas or electrical appliances.
- Check fire extinguishers periodically for proper charge.
- Avoid overloading your vehicle.
- Be careful not to cause an improper load distribution which can adversely affect road ability.
- Ensure that tires are in good condition and properly inflated at all times.
- Under-inflated tires overheat and are prone to blowouts!
- Check and tighten wheel lug nuts; manufacturer recommends after first 50-100 miles and every 1,000 miles thereafter.

## Emergency Exits

Sliding windows, which can be easily opened, may be used as an emergency exit. Squeeze the window latch and slide the window open. Emergency exit windows are identified by an EXIT decal on the glass.

### Owner's Manual Requirements

The minimum required educational information in the owner's manual shall include:

1. A sample of the weight label's contents affixed to the unit as appropriate.
2. An explanation of the following:
  - Vehicle weight distribution
  - How to weigh the vehicle
    - » These definitions:
    - » Gross Axle Weight Rating (GAWR)
    - » Gross Combination Weight Rating (GCWR)
    - » Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR)
    - » Unloaded Vehicle Weight (UVW)
    - » Net Carrying Capacity (NCC)
3. Towing guidelines.





**MOTOR HOME WEIGHT INFORMATION**

Model \_\_\_\_\_

GVWR \_\_\_\_\_

UVW \_\_\_\_\_

NCC \_\_\_\_\_

GCWR \_\_\_\_\_

**GVWR**

(Gross Vehicle Weight Rating) means the maximum permissible weight of this motor home. The GVWR is equal to or greater than the sum of the Unloaded Vehicle Weight plus the Net Carrying Capacity.

**UVW**

(Unloaded Vehicle Weight) means the weight of this motor home as built at the factory with full fuel, engine oil, and coolants. The UVW does not include cargo, fresh water, LP gas, occupants, or dealer installed accessories.

**NCC**

(Net Carrying Capacity) means the maximum weight of all occupants including the driver, personal belongings, food, fresh water, LP gas, tools, tongue weight of towed vehicle, dealer installed accessories, etc., that can be carried by this motor home.

(NCC is equal to or less than GVWR minus UVW).

**GCWR**

(Gross Combination Weight Rating) means the value specified by the motor home manufacturer as the maximum allowable loaded weight of this motor home with its towed trailer or towed vehicle.

This motor home is capable of carrying up to 98 gallons of fresh water (including water heater) for a total of 816 pounds.

Reference: Weight of fresh water is 8.33 lbs./gal.; Weight of LP gas is 4.5 lbs./gal. (average).

**CONSULT WEIGHT DECAL LOCATED IN MOTOR HOME FOR ACTUAL WEIGHTS****Vehicle Loading**

The Federal Certification Label, located inside and above the driver's windshield between the sun visor mounting brackets describes the maximum weight-carrying capacities of your motor home and for each axle, respectively abbreviated by "GVWR" and "GAWR".

The Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR) is the maximum motor home weight allowable with all systems filled and with passengers and supplies aboard.

Each axle also has a maximum load-bearing capacity referred to as the Gross Axle Weight Rating (GAWR).

The load capacity is the difference between the GVWR and the actual weight. This means that the total weight of all food, clothing, other supplies and passengers must not permit the load capacity to be exceeded.

To find the actual weight, with the motor home fully loaded, drive to a scale and read the weight on the front and rear wheels separately to determine axle loading. The load on each axle should not exceed its GAWR. If weight ratings are exceeded, move or remove items to bring all weights below the ratings.

When loading your motor home, store heavy gear first. Be sure to keep heavy gear on or as close to the floor as possible. Heavy items should be stored centrally to distribute the weight evenly between the front and the rear axles. Store only light objects on high shelves. Distribute weight to obtain even side-to-side balance of the loaded unit. Secure loose items to prevent weight shifts that could adversely affect the balance and road ability of the vehicle.



## Motor Home Service – Replacement Parts

A paint color label is located adjacent to the Federal Certification Label above the pilot's sun visor.

Data plates located on the rear of the chassis (raise rear engine compartment door for access) provide information useful for identifying your motor home if you are planning on ordering parts. Identification plates provide information such as:

1. Body Serial Number
2. Model Year
3. Body Service Number
4. Chassis Serial Number
5. Chassis Service Number

## Economical Driving

How you drive, where you drive and when you drive – these factors all have an effect on determining how many miles you can get from a gallon of fuel. Careful maintenance will also contribute to fuel economy.

Frequent stops and starts during a trip diminish miles per gallon. Planning even short shopping trips so you can take advantage of through-streets to avoid the traffic lights. Pace your driving like the professional drivers to avoid unnecessary stops.

An idling engine also consumes fuel. If you are faced with more than a few minutes wait, and you are not in traffic, it may be advisable to shut off the engine and re-start later.

A properly lubricated vehicle means less friction between moving parts. Consult the maintenance schedules for proper lubricants, lubrication intervals and general motor home maintenance scheduling.

Fuel economy is also related directly to the amount of work accomplished by the engine. Heavier loads require more power: Keep excess weight to a minimum.

## Cellular Phone Wiring

A roof mounted antenna and wiring (terminals in driver's area) are supplied for cellular phone hookup.

## Fog Lights

Clear fog lamps are mounted stationary in the front bumper. The fog lamps illuminate only with low beam headlights, provided the dash switch is activated.

## Traveling in Your Motor Home

### NOTE:

1. *Overall length - 44'-0", Interior Height - 83", Interior Width - 95", Exterior Width - 102", Wheelbase - 296", Front Overhang - 85", Rear Overhang 99", Cargo Carrying Capacity - 3,800 lbs. (depending on options).*

2. *It is recommended that compartment doors be locked so they do not open while in transit. There are many modern recreational vehicle parks with good facilities, including State, County and Federal Parks, where electrical, water and sewer connections are readily available. Directories are published which describe these parks in detail, and list available services and hookups.*

On overnight short weekend trips, your motor home has more than adequate holding tanks and water supply capacity in the event that campgrounds or parking sites are not equipped with these facilities.

On longer trips, where sewer connections and utility hookups are unavailable, it will be necessary to stop from time to time to dispose of holding tank wastes and replenish the water supply. Many gas stations (chain and individually-owned) have installed sanitary dumping stations for just this purpose.

When stopping for the night, park the motor home in a location that is relatively level and where the ground is firm. This will ensure your comfort as well as the leveling of your refrigerator (for most efficient operation).

Making a long trip is not very different from making a weekend excursion since everything you need is right at hand and you are home wherever you travel. When packing for an extended trip, try to avoid taking nonessential items.



When planning to stay in the same location for several days, weeks, or even months, be sure to maintain the motor home level. Use the leveling jacks system for this purpose. (See Leveling Jacks in Section 4-7 of this manual).

Hook up to the water supply by attaching the water hose to the commercial water supply inlet.

Plug the electrical cable into the shoreline receptacle. Be sure to observe all grounding and connection precautions!

Connect sewage hookup into the disposal facility.

## Winter Traveling

Certain precautions should be taken when traveling in your motor home during the cold winter months. Keep these suggestions in mind:

- Provide heat in the motor home at all times.
- Have a plentiful supply of LPG and diesel.
- If your stay is longer than overnight and you do not use the generator, try to have a shoreline hooked up to outside AC power.
- Minimize your use of electricity if 120 vac is unavailable.
- Leave cabinet doors and wardrobe doors slightly open at night to allow for proper air circulation.

Remember that low temperatures in combination with high winds will cause an equivalent chill temperature much below that indicated by your thermometer. For instance, with an outside temperature of zero degrees and a wind velocity of 10 miles per hour the equivalent chill temperature would be -20 degrees Fahrenheit!

There is no substitute for common sense when traveling in cold weather.

## General Storage Notes

Drawing draperies will reduce fading of rugs and upholstery. Leaving an air freshener agent will minimize odors from plastics and other materials. Slight opening of windows and vents will allow air circulation without worry of water entering. Covering wheels to eliminate direct rays of the sun on tires will reduce sidewall cracking.

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**NOTE:** Remove all items from the motor home that may freeze, including canned foods, miscellaneous liquids, etc. Remove all contents of the refrigerator/freezer, clean unit and leave doors ajar.

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## Countertop Care

**NOTE:** Proper care of all countertops is the owner's responsibility. Scratches will occur if proper care is not implemented. Use cleaners and cleaning materials only recommended for these types of countertops. For example, using a scrub brushes or abrasive cleaners not recommended for this type of countertop could cause unsightly scratches.

**NOTE:** Chipping of countertops is not covered under the warranty. Abrasive cleaners can cause chipping. Please take special care to avoid the chipping of countertops.

## Reporting Safety Defects

If you believe your vehicle has a safety defect which could cause a crash or could cause injury or death, you should immediately inform the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) in addition to notifying Blue Bird Wanderlodge.

If NHTSA receives similar complaints, it may open an investigation, and if it finds that a safety defect exists in a group of vehicles it may order a recall and remedy campaign. However, NHTSA cannot become involved in individual problems between you, your dealer, or Blue Bird Wanderlodge.

To contact NHTSA, you may either call the Auto Safety Hotline toll free at 1-800-424-9393 (or 366-0123 in Washington, D.C., area). Or write to: NHTSA, U.S. Department of Transportation, Washington, D.C. 20590. You can also obtain other information about Motor Vehicle Safety from the hotline.



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