

Flush With Success?

RV toilets can be Heaven or Hell
according to our resident Techspert
from **Southern Spirit Campervans...**



Previous page: This is what a toilet cassette looks like inside after years of use without cleaning. Enough said!
Above: Toilet cassettes require basic but regular maintenance, with the lip seal (66188) the most common wear item.

The primary thing that separates a motorhome from a campervan is a bathroom, usually complete with shower and loo. A bathroom makes your travels more independent and is certainly a must have during the night, but it's likely the loo is also the feature you dislike most in your vehicle.

Incidentally, I've seen a lot of motorhomes where owners did tell me they've stopped using the toilet and now just use the bathroom as a large storage cupboard. Sad. Most often they said the smell and hassle of waste disposal, plus leaks and discomfort were the factors that ultimately put them off. Disposing of toilet waste in most non-American vehicles is done by means of an externally accessed cassette, and that's what we're focusing on in this issue.

So, how do you get the best from your motorhome's toilet? One big thing is to use the toilet and any additives exactly the way recommend by the manufacturer. Also remember a cassette toilet needs a bit more

attention than your toilet at home. The distance from the toilet seat to the waste cassette is short and direct, so there are some rules you need to abide by to get the best from your system:

- Always make sure you open the cassette **BEFORE** using the toilet
- After use flush, then immediately close the cassette again
- Only remove the cassette when lid is closed!
- After emptying give the cassette a flush of fresh water and swirl it around to make sure **EVERYTHING** has left the tank
- Make sure when you push the cassette back into the holding compartment that it 'clicks' firmly into position (the yellow or green plastic lever clips behind the white holding brackets on the bottom). If the tank is not in the right position it might not align with the upper part of your toilet and that's when leaks happen, or the tank lid can become jammed



An old lip seal in need of replacement.

- If you have a toilet cassette compartment with small storage compartments beneath the cassette that are covered by white lids, ensure the lids (particularly the rear one) are in place. Without the covers the cassette doesn't sit properly into position and leaking can occur. Check such under-cassette areas and be sure to clean them on a regular basis.

Proper Tank Cleaning

One product that's great to clean your tank from the inside is Thetford's **Cassette Tank Cleaner**. It's the ultimate cleaning agent for regular use. Cassette Tank Cleaner is used to quickly remove the build up of stubborn calcium deposits and severe scaling found inside your waste tank – no scrubbing required! Thetford advises to use it after every major camping trip and a bottle costs around \$11.50. Click

[HERE](#) to watch a short video of it in action. Alternatively, a oxygen cleaner can be used. Either way it should become routine to clean your tank from inside.

Maintenance, repairs or refurbishment

The part that needs to be replaced most frequently is the cassette lip seal. It seals the cassette to the toilet and if broken or full of scale and grime it's most likely you'll have odours and even leaks into the bathroom. Leaks can also cause waste to run down the outside of your cassette that can pool in the area below. Quite often you'll see leaks making their way into the shower tray by running from the cassette compartment into the shower area – or even worse – under the shower tray where you have no access!

Replacing a lip seal is fairly easy and if you click [HERE](#) you can watch a video that shows how to refurbish a Thetford cassette, including replacing the lip seal. The seals themselves can be purchased very reasonably through RV online shops or even on eBay. Just be sure you check exactly which toilet you have before ordering any parts. In Europe Thetford and Dometic offer an overhaul kit for their toilets, but as yet these kits aren't available in Australia, although you can search for them online.

I suggest you use very thin toilet paper and stay away from 3-layer deluxe super soft products – they just won't dissolve! Look after your cassette toilet and it should provide years of relatively trouble free service. But neglect it at your peril! Mr & Mrs iMotorhome suggest trying to use your motorhome toilet for liquid waste only, except in emergencies. This reduces odours and makes the job of emptying and cleaning that much nicer. Happy flushing!

Suggested Products

Here are some everyday products that will help keep your cassette clean, reduce or eliminate odours and breakdown waste.

Product	Description	Amount	Cost	Cost per usage	Buy
Odour B Gone	Australian made product with multipurpose usage options that can also be used in smaller half portions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20 disks per bag • Eco-friendly and easy to use • Non-perfumed. 	\$25.00	\$1.25	http://www.odour-b-gone.com.au/Odour-B-Gone.htm
Thetford – • Aqua Kem • Aqua Rinse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Thetford product in liquid form for use in cassettes and the flush water tank. • The rinse product also protects flush water systems from developing biofilm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 75 to 100 ml per 10 L tank • Non-perfumed 	From \$18.50 for 2 L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$1.70 (Kem) • \$1.00 (Rinse) 	http://www.portapotti.com.au/
Bio Pak & Porta Pak	Easy to use satchels to drop into the cassette. Some are septic friendly.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comes in packs of 15 or 30 satchels • Deodorised 	From \$17.50	From \$1.20	Buy on eBay or online RV shops
Flush-It Traveller	100% biodegradable utilising natural bacteria to eat away smells and digests waste.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 sachets per pack • Very easy to use • No artificial deodoriser 	\$19.00	\$4.75	http://www.biomaster.com.au/collections/traveller/products/flush-it-traveller
SOG – A chemical-free, no-smell toilet solution	A system where odours are filtered externally through a carbon filter combined with a 12 V fan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One-off investment • Chemical free 	\$180-\$300 plus installation	Change filters every 6 months for less than \$30	http://www.aussietraveller.com.au/pages/products

Ask The Techspert!

If you have any maintenance questions or problems email us at techtalk@imotorhome.com.au and we'll see what we can sort out. Please include photos as well as a description of any problems and we'll share them and the answers with all our readers.