MAINTENANCE MATTERS

Have Lav, Will Travel

Few things can lose you repeat business quite like a poorly maintained lavatory. It’s easy to keep the paper stocked, the lock working, and even the mirror clean. But increased use also calls for increased mechanical maintenance.

ALWAYS OBSERVE LOCAL ORDINANCES WHEN DUMPING

1. Drain the waste-holding tank by opening the dump valve (slide). Flush to release the solution in the pump. Close the dump valve. Attach a fresh water (ideally warm or hot) hose to charge the tank, and flush two or three times to circulate and rinse. Repeat dump-and-rinse cycle until waste water runs clear. Obstructions can sometimes be cleared by cycling the dump valve a few times. If necessary, the drainout plug should be removed for clearing the dump valve. A solution of 1/2 pint (.5 liter) disinfectant should be used for the final rinse. Thoroughly dry the tank with compressed air before refilling. Refill with fresh water/chemical solution according to instructions, to the fill mark on the sight glass. Flush the bay a few times to circulate the solution and fill the pump. Recheck fluid level; top off if necessary.

2. Enjoy the trip.

MCI carries Celeste Sani-Pak toilet chemical, as well as a full line of Celeste cleaning products and personal amenity items.

Freshwater storage tanks (if equipped) should be inspected at least semi-annually and cleaned and disinfected as needed. The lavatory ventilation system should be inspected and serviced as needed.

The vacuum ventilation system draws air into the engine’s air intake while the engine is running. Inspect the air hose for splits or tears. Breaks in the air routing hose will reduce fresh air flow through the lavatory and can allow unfiltered air to enter the engine intake box. Inspect the drains, which may hold water and allow odors to re-enter the coach. See Figure 1.

![Figure 1](image1)

The exhaust ventilation system uses a 24-volt fan to circulate fresh air. With the ignition key in the 'ACC' or 'RUN' position, the fan is powered and discharges stale air from the lavatory area into the engine air intake. As with all fan motors, check for noise, wobbling fan blade (bearing), and loose mounting bolts. See Figure 2.

![Figure 2](image2)

Bubbles in the flush stream are generally caused by a leaking or ruptured flush diaphragm. Correcting this early can keep the entire system from failing on the road.

Always consult Section 17 of your Maintenance Manual for detailed troubleshooting information on your particular lavatory system. The technical call center at (800) 241-2947 can also be of assistance in an emergency. Call (800) 323-1238 for any required parts or supplies, or order online at the MCI Parts Store.