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By Brian Robertson

Protect All

Champions Choice has developed a formula for cleaning and protecting almost all surfaces

Keeping an RV looking as good as new can be quite a chore. Most RVs have much more surface area to clean than does a car. Being basically lethargic about washing and waxing vehicles, I keep my eyes peeled for new products that are designed to make the job of cleaning my motorhome easier. When such products are available, you can bet I'm standing at the front of the line.

After hearing about Protect All, I thought it was just another vinyl/rubber conditioner that would shine a vinyl dashboard and make tires look shiny black. Boy, was I in for a pleasant surprise! Protect All is truly a versatile cleaner and surface protector that does exactly what the manufacturer claims.

Adam Huber, president of Champion Choice Incorporated, started his career in chemical engineering by manufacturing cutting fluids and coolants for the metal machining industry. He later produced a popular chain lubricant for motorcycles and then created Protect All, after two years and 25 test formulas. Protect All was first marketed to the aircraft industry. Pilots found the product was effective in cleaning and shining the whole airplane, inside and out, top to bottom, while leaving a hard, slick coating that reduced wind drag and allowed dirt and dust to shed from the exterior.

Protect All is a petroleum formula containing silicones that seal and protect paint, vinyl, leather, chrome, plastic, glass, wood and fiberglass. Recently the company improved the formula to block ultraviolet (UV) rays. Just like a sunblock for your skin, the UV block helps retard color fade in your RV's finish caused by ultraviolet rays. This is a great advantage, as most rigs spend most of the time outdoors in the sun, which is pure punishment to any vehicle's finish.

Protect All is available in 13.5-ounce aerosol cans that contain a non-Freon-based propellant which does not contribute to problems with the ozone layer in the atmosphere. The product is also available in economy-size one-gallon containers with a pump spray nozzle. The small can retail at \$10, and the gallon size sells for \$40.

Simply spray the surface that you want to protect with a light mist of Protect All and wipe with a clean, dry cloth or paper towel until the surface is shiny. That's all there is to it.

I was reluctant to tackle my motorhome's exterior; it seemed like several acres of surface area to cover, requiring lots of elbow grease. So, I tried Protect All on the interior first, beginning with the cabinet panels. The wood was looking a little dry, and I thought if this product was truly designed to protect all, it should work on the cabinets. It worked great, like a quality furniture polish.

At first, I was mildly upset when the spray got all over the inside of couple of the windows. In the past, getting vinyl protectants or wood polishes on the windows left a greasy, streaky film that was nearly impossible to remove. Surprisingly, Protect All actually made the glass so clean and clear, it seemed to disappear! A few strokes with a paper towel made the windows sparkle.

Since this product worked so well on the inside of the glass, I went ahead and applied it to the outside of the windows. Not only did Protect All clean really well, it had an added benefit: The silicone content makes water roll off the glass. After a rain, the windows dried without leaving unsightly water spots. Now I was really getting excited.

Next came the stainless-steel galley sink, the stovetop cover, the glass oven door, the refrigerator door, the Formica countertop, the shower stall and the bathroom mirrors; they all looked great after an application of Protect All. By this time, I was ready to tackle the exterior side walls. Past experience

with paste and softened cream waxes had made me gun-shy of waxing RV exteriors. Rubbing on the wax, then wiping off the hard dry residue was not a job I had previously relished.

Protect All reduced the effort required to wax the RV's exterior by about 60 percent, in my judgement. There is no rubbing required to apply the product; the only rubbing required that has to be done is the polishing phase. And since Protect All does not have a dry power residue, the effort required for polishing is much less than with regular waxes. When the motorhome was done, I took a few steps back and admired my work. It was beautiful!

A few weeks later, I discovered a fringe benefit: The rock shield that covers the front windows of my rig normally gets plastered with bugs, but this time they wiped off easily during a regular wash.

The exterior was finished by giving the RV tires the once-over. They looked great, and Protect All contains additives that prevent rubber damage from ozone, sun and smog, while reducing rotting and cracking, according to the company. That's because it contains no alcohol, like some other protectants, that can cause rubber to shrink, crack and dry.

If a full-size motorhome was that easy to do, I figured the tow car should be a snap. Huber claimed that dust and dirt could be removed with a "dry wash" after treating a car's paint with Protect All, since the chemical has anti-static and anti-stick properties. After cleaning and polishing our towed car with Huber's invention, we found he was right; the dirt was easily removed with a feather duster without scratching the paint finish. Huber recommended applying a coating of Protect All every other month in order to build a hard, glossy layer that will make dirt removal even easier at cleaning time.

Protect All not only worked for RV applications, it found its way into our household for cleaning the kitchen and bath tile, the television and computer screen, and as a furniture polish, it did a great job of polishing a small marble-top table. **TL**