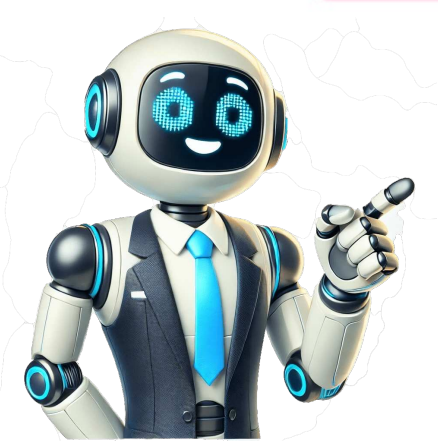


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The RV propane furnace is a fantastic thing to have in an RV - as long as it's working. When you turn up the thermostat, you turn up the heat and a few seconds later, heat is moving through the heating ducts and warming your RV's living space, just like the furnace in any home. But, between the turning up of the thermostat and the heat flowing through the RV a series of events occurs that not only creates heat for your rig but also protects you from any harm that could come from the combination of a flame and some propane. This includes two safety switches - the sail switch, and the high-limit switch. In this post, we're taking a closer look at the RV furnace sail switch - what it does, how it works, how you'll know if it needs cleaning or replacement, and how to do it. Let's go! How Does an RV Propane Furnace Work? An RV propane furnace is a forced-hot-air system that requires a thermostat, a control board, a relay, a blower motor, sail switch, high-level switch, ignitor, and some ductwork. To activate the system, you set the thermostat higher than the RV's current temperature, which activates the blower motor. A propane burner generates heat, and air drawn in from the interior of the RV is blown past a heat exchanging surface. As it passes by that surface it becomes heated and is then distributed throughout the RV through the ducts. 12V electricity is required to turn on the furnace and to operate the fans. The exhaust gases created by the combustion process are vented to the outside of the RV through vents that look something like this: These are the Suburban furnace vents on the exterior of our Newmar Mountain Aire. If you have an Atwood or Dometic RV furnace, your vents make look a bit different. What is a Sail Switch? The sail switch is a safety switch that prevents the furnace from running if the blower motor isn't moving air. It's a switch that's closed when the blower motor is running and open when it's not. If the blower motor stops, the sail switch opens, which cuts off the propane supply to the furnace. This prevents the furnace from running without proper airflow, which could lead to a fire. The sail switch is located on the outside of the RV, near the furnace vent. It's a small, rectangular switch with a lever that can be moved up and down. The lever is connected to a wire that runs back to the furnace. When the lever is moved up, it completes the circuit and allows the furnace to run. When the lever is moved down, it opens the circuit and stops the furnace. The sail switch is a simple but important safety feature that helps protect you and your RV from a fire. It's a switch that's closed when the blower motor is running and open when it's not. If the blower motor stops, the sail switch opens, which cuts off the propane supply to the furnace. This prevents the furnace from running without proper airflow, which could lead to a fire. The sail switch is located on the outside of the RV, near the furnace vent. It's a small, rectangular switch with a lever that can be moved up and down. The lever is connected to a wire that runs back to the furnace. When the lever is moved up, it completes the circuit and allows the furnace to run. When the lever is moved down, it opens the circuit and stops the furnace. The sail switch is a simple but important safety feature that helps protect you and your RV from a fire.



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