

**BlackHawk**™  
ROADMASTER



**CONTENTS OF  
THIS MANUAL  
MUST BE READ  
BY OWNER**



**THE FINEST 8,000 LB. TOW BAR . . .**

**FOR SERIOUS TOWING!**

*Owner's Manual*

**Congratulations** on the purchase of your new **BLACKHAWK™** tow bar...and **THANK YOU.** You have purchased the finest 8,000 lb. tow bar made...bar none! Quality materials, computer technology and our reputation for craftsmanship have gone into each of our precision folding tow bars. Each of our products is designed for safe, trouble-free towing. Your safety is important to us. This booklet was written with your safety in mind.

Before using your tow bar, read this booklet. Understand how to install & maintain your tow bar and carefully follow all the instructions and safety precautions. **Remember, proper installation and use of the product is the sole responsibility of the purchaser. Improper installation, use or maintenance may result in personal injury, property damage or even death.**

A good time to inspect your tow bar and mounting brackets is during your regular vehicle maintenance check-ups such as an oil change, brake check or tire rotation. Don't forget to keep your tow bar clean and lubricated on a regular basis. We offer a silicone spray specifically for this purpose. Using our vinyl tow bar cover will help keep your tow bar free from dirt and road grime; assuring easy hook-up and operation. **Safety cables are required by law in most states.** Follow our safety cable installation in this booklet.

To qualify for your Warranty you must completely fill out and return the enclosed warranty registration card within (30) thirty days of purchase. As a bonus, we'll extend your warranty to a total of two years at no additional cost. As a **BLACKHAWK™** owner, rest assured you have bought the finest 8,000 lb.tow bar on the planet. We thank you for your patronage and greatly appreciate your discerning taste.

# FREE EXTENDED WARRANTY

You must fill out & mail the warranty registration card within thirty (30) days from the date of purchase to qualify for your warranty. If we receive your card within 30 days, we will extend the coverage to a total of **TWO (2) years** at no extra charge.

Your warranty registration is an important record for **ROADMASTER** to keep in touch with you. It also enables us to expedite any future claim, update or recall that may arise concerning our products.

## IMPORTANT

**FILL OUT - TEAR OFF & MAIL WITHIN 30 DAYS TO QUALIFY FOR YOUR WARRANTY AND TO RECEIVE YOUR FREE ONE YEAR EXTENSION.**

### WARRANTY PROCEDURES

If you have any problems with this product, immediately contact **ROADMASTER** at 1-800-669-9690. If necessary, we can direct you to your nearest warranty service center and make arrangements for any warranty repairs or replacements. While under warranty, **ROADMASTER** will make arrangements for your product to be repaired or replaced. **Do not purchase replacement parts or pay for labor - you will not be reimbursed.** See section titled "**ROADMASTER Limited Warranty**" for specific details.

**ROADMASTER**

**FREE BONUS**

### **CAN'T LOCATE YOUR TOW BAR SERIAL NUMBER?**

**YOUR TOW BAR SERIAL NUMBER IS ON A LABEL. YOU WILL NEED THIS NUMBER WHEN YOU FILL OUT YOUR TOW BAR WARRANTY INFORMATION.**

**RETAIN SERIAL NUMBER FOR FUTURE REFERENCE.**



**SERIAL NUMBER # \_\_\_\_\_**

# 12 MUSTS FOR TOWING SAFETY

1. **TOW BAR MUST BE LEVEL WITH THE MOTORHOME. DO NOT TOW IF TOW BAR IS OVER 3 INCHES OFF LEVEL IN EITHER DIRECTION**

Towing with an upward or downward slope of the tow bar puts undue strain on the tow bar and mounting brackets. Do not tow if tow bar is over 3 inches off level as failure will occur and will not be covered by warranty (see pg. 13).

2. **STEERING MUST BE UNLOCKED AND FREE TO TURN WHEN TOWING**

Failure to do so can result in severe tire and equipment damage. Steering wheel must be free to turn when towing.

3. **DRIVER MUST NOT BACK UP MOTORHOME WITH VEHICLE ATTACHED**

Backing up with towed vehicle attached easily causes the vehicle to "jack-knife" and will damage the tow bar, mounting bracket, hitch, the towed vehicle front end and/or rear of the motorhome. This is the primary cause of tow bar damage and will void the warranty.

4. **TOW BAR MUST BE SECURED WITH LINC PINS AND/OR PADLOCKS BEFORE TOWING**

Unless the tow bar is secured to both vehicles with all designated pins and/or padlocks, you will lose your towed vehicle.

5. **OWNER MUST KEEP THE TOW BAR CLEAN AND WELL LUBRICATED**

As is the case with most precision equipment, frequent cleaning and care results in prolonged service. Details for cleaning & lubricating your **BLACKHAWK™** tow bar are outlined in the section titled "**Care and Cleaning**".

6. **OWNER MUST INSPECT ALL MOUNTS, BRACKETS AND FASTENERS**

Visually inspect ALL bolts, wiring, cables and metal components each time before you tow to avoid problems on the road. Check brackets every 3,000 miles. Inspect for any fractures or cracks in the steel or any visible damage. **Do not tow if damaged.** Check torque on all bolts. Refer to installation instructions for mounting brackets and tow bar for torque ratings.

7. **OWNER MUST FILL OUT & MAIL THE WARRANTY REGISTRATION CARD**

It is **IMPORTANT** that you send in a completely filled out registration card as soon as possible. The information is needed in case we must contact you for updates, recalls and to verify your warranty.

**8. OWNER MUST CHECK MANUFACTURER'S INSTRUCTIONS FOR TOWING**

Some vehicles require a transmission lube pump, axle disconnect, driveline disconnect or free-wheeling hubs to tow without damaging equipment. Failure to properly equip vehicle will result in severe damage to the transmission. Check manufacturer's specifications for the proper procedure to prepare vehicle for towing. Be sure your vehicle is towable before taking it on the road.

**9. OWNER MUST NEVER TOW VEHICLE WITH A COMPARABLE WEIGHT VEHICLE**

The towed vehicle should never exceed 40% of the weight of the towing vehicle. Towing a vehicle equipped with a tow bar using a vehicle of similar weight will cause the rear vehicle to over-ride the front vehicle, resulting in "jackknifing", "leapfrogging", "fishtailing" or other unsafe towing situation. Serious damage to both vehicles and the towing system equipment could result.

**10. OWNER MUST ALWAYS USE SAFETY CABLES OR CHAINS WHEN TOWING**

A frame to frame safety cable hookup is legal in ALL states that require them.

**11. OWNER MUST NEVER BACK UP WHEN TOWING YOUR VEHICLE**

Backing up while the towed vehicle is attached, will easily "jackknife" the vehicle being towed. This will result in damage to the towed vehicle, hitch, tow bar assembly, and/or motorhome. **ROADMASTER**, Inc assumes no responsibility for any damage that is caused by improper use. Backing up with a towed vehicle is considered "improper use".

**12. OWNER MUST CHECK MOTORHOME TURNING RADIUS**

Some motorhomes have an extremely tight turning radius that can actually allow the towed vehicle to "clip" the rear of the motorhome or cause tow bar damage. It is also possible on some RVs to turn so sharply that the tires on the towed car can drag sideways. Before getting on the road, carefully test your turning radius in a large parking lot to see if your vehicle is susceptible. Bent fuse plates on the tow bar (see back cover) indicate that the vehicle has been turned too sharply or jack-knifed. Damage to the RV, towed vehicle, or tow bar that occurs from turning too sharply is not warrantable.

**FAILURE TO FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS MAY RESULT  
IN PROPERTY DAMAGE, PERSONAL INJURY OR DEATH.**

# INSTALLER *MUSTS* FOR SAFETY

The following "*Musts for Safety*" are provided to your installer with the installation instructions for the **BLACKHAWK™**. It is repeated here for your information. As a precautionary measure, verify that you or the installer have followed all safety requirements before towing your vehicle.

1. ***INSTALLER MUST SHOW OWNER HOW TO PROPERLY OPERATE THE TOW BAR.***

Carefully read the section "Hook-up Instructions" and familiarize yourself with the features of the tow bar. Demonstrate it and have the owner do a few "practice runs". You not only impress your customer with your thoroughness, but will start your customer off on a safer and happier towing experience.

2. ***INSTALLER MUST CAUTION OWNER TO USE A HITCH OR RECEIVER FOR THE MOTORHOME THAT IS RATED HIGHER THAN THE ACTUAL WEIGHT OF YOUR VEHICLE INCLUDING ALL OF ITS CONTENTS.***

3. ***INSTALLER MUST CAUTION OWNER TO SECURE TOW BAR TO BOTH VEHICLES WITH DESIGNATED PINS AND/OR PADLOCKS.***

Unless all the pins are used to secure the tow bar to both vehicles, the owner **will** lose his towed vehicle.

4. ***INSTALLER MUST BOLT THE BLACKHAWK™ QD BASE TO A MOUNTING BRACKET ATTACHED TO THE TOWED VEHICLE'S FRAME OR UNIBODY.***

The **BLACKHAWK™** tow bar is designed as a bolt-on device only. Virtually all vehicles require a mounting bracket assembly that is connected safely to the frame, unibody or chassis and extends beyond the bumper. Using a mounting bracket kit designed by **ROADMASTER** takes the burden of doubt out of the installer's hands. **Under no circumstances should the tow bar be welded to the vehicle, nor should any of the pre-punched mounting holes be altered.** In fact, any welding or altering of the tow bar will void the Owner's Warranty.

5. ***INSTALLER MUST ADVISE OWNER TO USE 8,000 LB. OR HIGHER RATED SAFETY CABLES***

Frame to frame safety cables are legal in ALL states.

6. ***INSTALLER MUST STRESS IMPORTANCE OF OWNER SENDING IN WARRANTY CARD***

New owners are to be urged to mail their Warranty Registration Card as soon as possible. This will enable **ROADMASTER** to expedite any claim or update important information concerning their **BLACKHAWK™** tow bar.

7. ***INSTALLER MUST READ INSTRUCTIONS THOROUGHLY BEFORE MOUNTING THE TOW BAR***

Proper mounting of the tow bar is of utmost importance. Proper centering and height positioning of the tow bar will give the owner a safe, dependable and trouble-free towing system.

8. ***INSTALLER MUST BE SURE THE VEHICLE IS SUITABLE OR ADAPTABLE FOR TOWING***

Not all vehicles can be safely towed as manufactured. A few models are not towable under any conditions and others with automatic transmissions require additional equipment such as a transmission lube pump, axle lock, driveline disconnect or free-wheeling hubs to make them towable. Failure to properly equip the towed vehicle will result in severe damage to the transmission. Also, the steering wheel **MUST** be unlocked for towing. Check manufacturer's specifications for the proper way to unlock the steering wheel.

**FAILURE TO FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS MAY RESULT  
IN PROPERTY DAMAGE, PERSONAL INJURY OR DEATH.**

# HOOK-UP INSTRUCTIONS

*Use caution when operating the tow bar to be sure that your hands, fingers or any part of your body does not get caught between any moving components. Doing so can result in pinching, crushing or cutting causing severe personal injury.*

## STEP 1

Follow **Installation Instructions** (in separate envelope) to mount **BLACKHAWK™ Quick Disconnect Base**.

## STEP 2

With the **BLACKHAWK** tow bar in the folded position (Fig. 1), insert it into the motorhome's receiver and secure with **Hitch Pin & Clip**.

## STEP 3

Firmly hold both tow bar arms and rotate them so that they are vertical as shown in Figure 2.

**WARNING: Never let go of the arms when they are in the vertical position. The arms can fall and cause severe injury if any part of your body is in the way.**

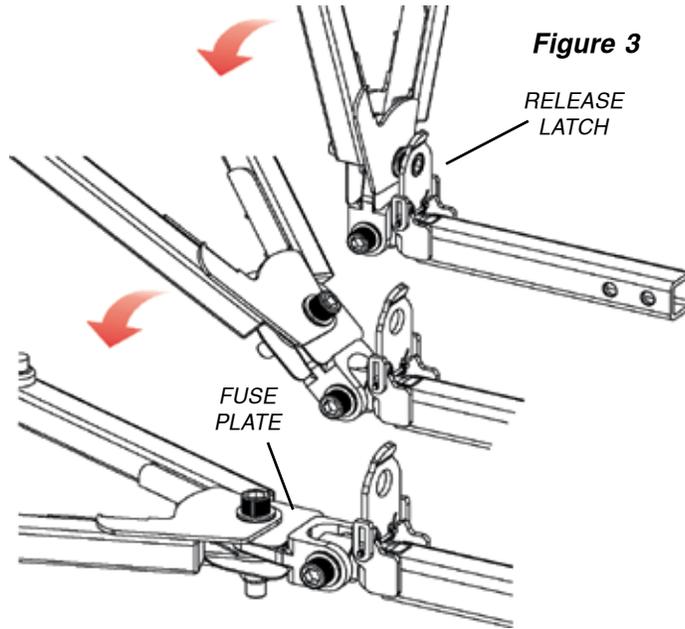


Figure 2



Figure 1





**Figure 3**

**STEP 4**

Push the Release Latch forward to bring both arms down to a horizontal position (Fig 3). Swing both arms away from you aligning the tabs on the outermost arm with the Base on the Quick-Disconnect Base (Fig.4). Using the included Base Pin, attach the arm and secure with linch pin or optional padlock.



**Figure 4**

**DON'T FORGET TO HOOK-UP YOUR WIRING AND SAFETY CABLES OR CHAINS**

**STEP 5**

Now, swing the other arm to the opposite side and connect in the same manner. Before continuing, make sure your vehicle is prepared for towing as per the manufacturer's instructions. In particular make sure:

- a Your steering wheel is in the unlocked position so it can freely move.
- b. The transmission is in the correct gear for towing.
- c. The emergency brake is released.
- d. You've connected your safety cables and wiring.

## STEP 6

Now slowly pull away in the motorhome. Your tow bar will self center and the **AUTOLOK system** will "**SNAP**" into position as you drive away. Visually verify that the locks have engaged before taking your trip. **TIP:** *If the **BLACKHAWK™** arm does not automatically lock when you pull the motorhome ahead, try turning the motorhome left, then right as you pull away. This will pull each arm in the necessary direction to engage the locking mechanism.*

## DISCONNECT INSTRUCTIONS

### To disconnect the **BLACKHAWK™**

- a. Set your vehicle's emergency brake and put your vehicle in Park. This will prevent the vehicle from rolling away during the disconnect process.
- b. Disconnect your safety cables and wiring.
- c. Depress the button on the top of the arm to release the locking mechanism. Usually one of the buttons will require substantially more force to release the lock. This is the arm that has the majority of the tension between the two vehicles.
- d. Remove the Base Pins and store the **BLACKHAWK™** on the motorhome by reversing the hook-up procedure.

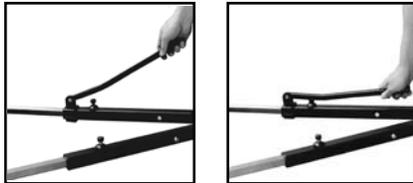


**WARNING:** FAILURE TO FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS MAY RESULT IN PROPERTY DAMAGE, PERSONAL INJURY OR DEATH.

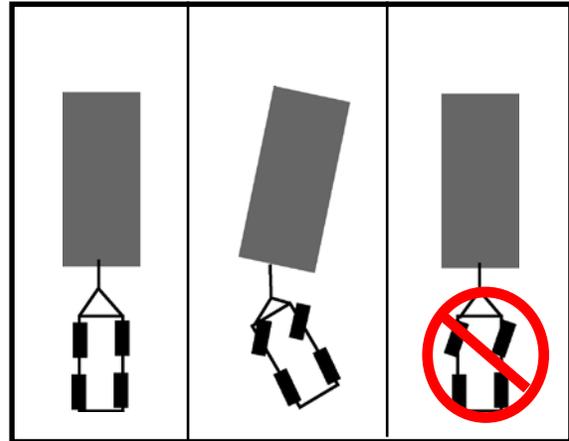
# DISCONNECT INSTRUCTIONS cont.

**IF YOU ARE EXPERIENCING ANY DIFFICULTY IN RELEASING THE LOCKING MECHANISM ON YOUR *BLACKHAWK™* TRY THE FOLLOWING:**

- 1) Whenever possible, disconnect the vehicles on flat, level ground.
- 2) Try to park with the towed vehicle in line with the motorhome (not at an angle to the motorhome). This will alleviate a lot of tension between the two vehicles.
- 3) Slide the Release tool (shown below) over the tow bar arm to release Autowlok button.
- 4) Turn the steering wheel in the towed vehicle so the front tires are parallel to the motorhome as shown in Figure A and Figure B. Note that it is not absolutely necessary for the car to be parallel with the motorhome, **only the car's front tires**. This procedure should alleviate the tension on the locking mechanism allowing it to release more easily. If you are still having difficulty, then have someone get in the car (with the car running) and turn the steering wheel all the way left then right. This will allow the car to wiggle in which ever direction it is being pushed or pulled alleviating some tension.

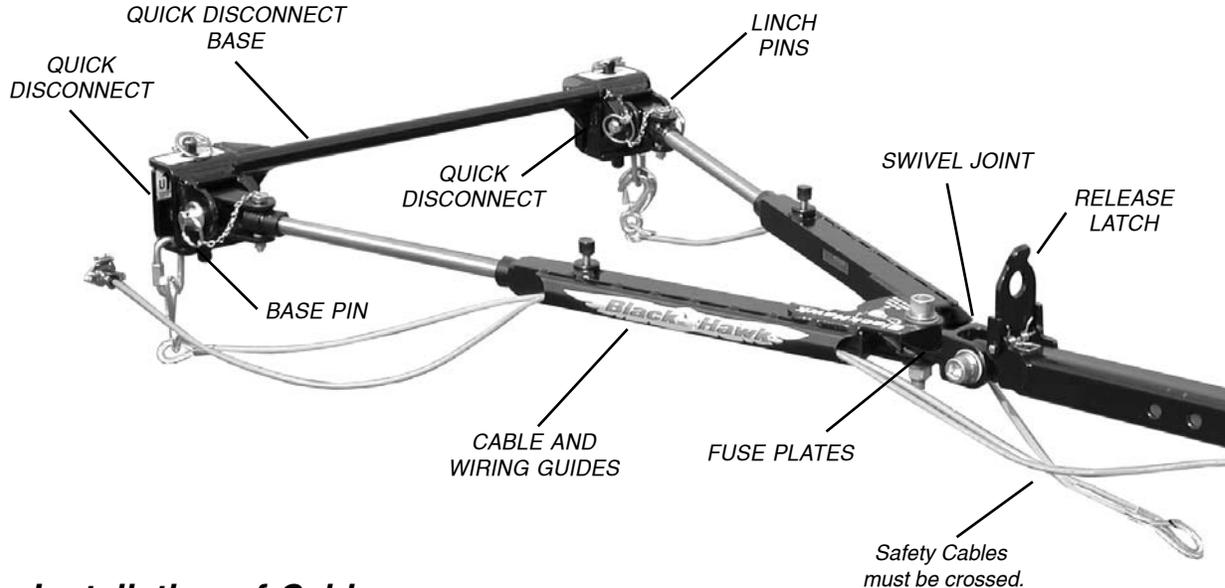


Release Tool



# SAFETY CABLES INSTRUCTIONS

**WARNING:** USE ONLY 8,000 LB. (or higher) RATED SAFETY CABLES



## ***Installation of Cables***

**Route the safety cables through the cable guides.**

## ***How to Use Safety Cables***

- 1.** Always cross cables under the hitch as shown in Figure 3. In the unlikely event the tow bar ever separates from the motorhome, crossing the cables will help prevent the tow bar from dragging on the ground causing it to pole vault the towed vehicle.
- 2.** Pull the safety cables so that all of the slack is at the motorhome. **IMPORTANT: Make sure there is enough slack in the cables at the motorhome to allow sharp turns.** Severe damage will result if your cables are too short.
- 3.** If you are connecting the **BLACKHAWK™** to a ROADMASTER bracket removable arms, then you **MUST** use the short safety cables (that came with your brackets) to connect between the Quick Disconnect and the portion of your mounting bracket that is permanently bolted to your towed car. This is required by law.
- 4.** Make sure your safety cables are rated at 8,000 lbs. per pair. Your vehicle and all of its contents cannot exceed 8,000 lbs.



## WARNING

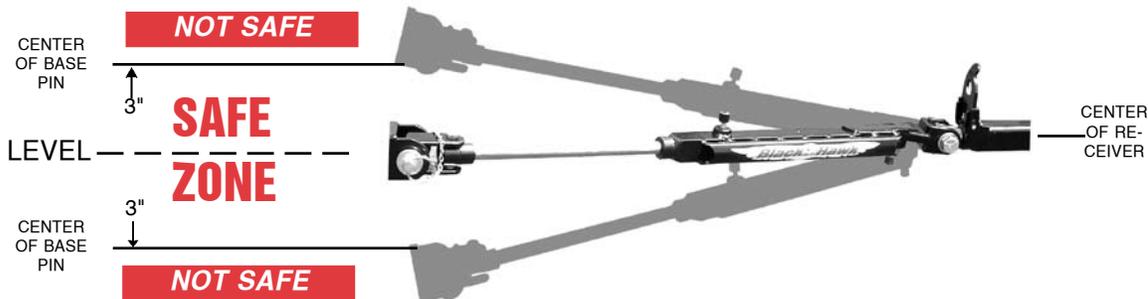
- Do NOT tow a vehicle using tow bar mounting brackets, safety cables or a hitch receiver rated less than the actual weight of your vehicle.
- Safety Cables **MUST** connect the towing vehicle to the towed vehicle frame to frame.
- **DO NOT TOW** your vehicle until tow bar is secure with ALL pins and /or locks. Unless your tow bar is secured to both vehicles with all designated pins and/or padlocks, **YOU WILL LOSE YOUR TOWED VEHICLE.**
- **NEVER** heat, bend or weld BLACKHAWK™ tow bar or it will weaken metals resulting in non-warranty failure.
- Towed vehicle must have emergency brake set and vehicle in Park when hooking or unhooking the towed vehicle from motorhome. Failure to do so will cause the towed vehicle to roll away.
- Use Caution when operating the tow bar to be sure that your hands, fingers or any part of your body does not get caught between any moving components. Doing so can result in pinching, crushing or cutting causing severe personal injury.
- Some motorhome chassis have a tight turning radius that can damage your motorhome, towed vehicle or tow bar while turning sharply. Before getting on the road with your towed vehicle, you should test your turning radius in an empty parking lot. With the towed vehicle attached, have someone watch you as you slowly turn sharply to see if you have this potential problem. Bent Fuse Plates (see back cover) indicate that vehicle has been turned to sharply or jackknifed. Damage that results from turning too sharply is not covered by warranty.



### WARNING:

FAILURE TO FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS MAY RESULT IN PROPERTY DAMAGE, PERSONAL INJURY OR DEATH.

**DO NOT TOW IF BLACKHAWK™ IS OVER 3 INCHES OUT OF LEVEL. See Caution on next page.**



Towing with an upward or downward slope of the tow bar puts undue strain on the tow bar and mounting brackets. **DO NOT TOW** if the **BLACKHAWK™** is over 3 inches off level as shown. To determine if your bar is at a safe angle:

- Connect motorhome and car on level ground.
- Measure from the ground to the center of the motorhome's receiver.
- Measure from the ground to the center of the base pin.
- Compare these two measurements. If they are more than 3" apart, you will need to use a Receiver Drop. This will increase or decrease the height of the motorhome's as needed.



**WARNING:** FAILURE TO FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS MAY RESULT IN PROPERTY DAMAGE, PERSONAL INJURY OR DEATH.

## CAUTION!

If you use any kind of receiver extension, the tow bar **MUST** be no more than 3 inches off level. **DO NOT TOW IF BLACKHAWK™ IS MORE THAN 3 INCHES OUT OF LEVEL while using receiver extension.** Extensions cause the towing system to swing much higher and lower going in and out of dips. The enlarged arc of motion creates many problems:

- 1) Excessive strain on the tow bar, brackets and frame. Using extensions with an out of level tow bar can cause the towing system to fail and result in the loss of your towed vehicle.
- 2) Excessive suspension and tire wear on the towed vehicle.
- 3) Swaying and poor towing characteristics of the towed vehicle.

Towing more than 3 inches out of level while using extensions will void ROADMASTER's warranty.



### WARNING:

FAILURE TO FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS MAY RESULT IN PROPERTY DAMAGE, PERSONAL INJURY OR DEATH.

## CARE & CLEANING

Your tow bar requires regular cleaning and lubricating to assure long term trouble free operation. Use the following guidelines when maintaining your tow bar:

Always clean the bar before lubricating. Use Roadmaster's VOOM RV Cleaner part number 9911 (shown at right). It does an exceptional job of breaking down road film, dirt and grease. Spray a liberal amount on the tow bar, then operate the tow bar to work the cleaner into all of the moving parts. Once you've cleaned the bar, wipe any remaining cleaner away before lubricating.

Now that you have a clean, dry tow bar. Spray a liberal amount of Roadmaster LubeMaster Silicone Spray Part #747 over the entire tow bar. Note: DO NOT SPRAY ANY SILICONE DIRECTLY INTO THE LOCK HOUSING! Silicone coats and covers in a thin layer. If you spray silicone inside the lock housing, it reduces the clearance for the locking mechanism preventing proper operation.

Proper cleaning and lubrication of the tow bar will prevent corrosion on your tow bar and provide smooth operation.

**TIP:** Use Silicone over the entire surface of the tow bar to help preserve the finish.

**NOTE:** To remove scratches and restore luster on the stainless steel arms we suggest that you use: Extra fine (0000) steel wool, 3M "Scotch Brite" (fine pad) or a similar product.



# **ROADMASTER LIMITED WARRANTY**

**ROADMASTER**, Inc. warrants to the original retail purchaser-consumer of this product that such product, when used for its normal intended purposes, is free of defects in workmanship and materials. This warranty, together with any and all warranties implied by law, shall be limited to a duration of one (1) year from the date of purchase by the original retail purchaser-consumer and is not transferable.

This warranty only covers failures due to defects in materials or workmanship which occur during normal and proper use and does not cover damage which occurs in shipment, backing up with "towed" vehicle attached or failures which are caused by products not supplied by **ROADMASTER**, Inc. or failures which result from normal wear, misuse, abuse, neglect, mishandling, misapplication, faulty installation, setup adjustments, improper maintenance, alteration, maladjustment, modification, commercial use or service of the product by anyone other than **ROADMASTER**, Inc. Furthermore, this warranty does not apply to any product or material or part which has been installed, maintained or used contrary to the operating, maintenance or installation instructions and shall not apply to any parts or materials used in the installation that were not supplied with the product in the original carton or to any damage which said parts or materials may cause.

THIS WARRANTY DOES NOT COVER, AND IS INTENDED TO EXCLUDE, ANY LIABILITY ON THE PART OF **ROADMASTER**, Inc. WHETHER UNDER THIS WARRANTY OR UNDER ANY WARRANTY IMPLIED BY LAW, FOR ANY INCIDENTAL OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES. SOME STATES DO NOT ALLOW THE EXCLUSION OR LIMITATION OF INCIDENTAL OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES, SO THE ABOVE LIMITATION OR EXCLUSION MAY NOT APPLY TO YOU.

# ROADMASTER LIMITED WARRANTY CONT.

## *RESPONSIBILITY OF ROADMASTER, INC.*

With proof of date of purchase by the consumer, **ROADMASTER**'s responsibility under this warranty shall be limited to the repair or replacement (at its option) of any product or part which is actually defective at no charge to the consumer except for shipping and/or mailing charges. In no event shall **ROADMASTER**'s liability under any claim or theory exceed the purchase price of the equipment in respect of which damages are claimed. No agent, representative, dealer or employee has the authority to alter or increase the obligations or limitations of this warranty. All specifications are subject to change without notice.

## *RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PURCHASER*

In order to qualify for this warranty, the purchaser must completely fill out and, within thirty (30) days of purchase, send to **ROADMASTER**, Inc. the attached warranty registration card. The purchaser must contact **ROADMASTER**, Inc. prior to returning any product so that **ROADMASTER** may determine the nature and extent of the claim and to obtain a return authorization number. Returned products must include the return authorization number and a copy of the sales slip as proof of purchase. The date of purchase must coincide with the original warranty registration card on file. If return of the product is required, it must be shipped prepaid via UPS to **ROADMASTER**'s address.





# ROADMASTER, INC.

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