

CARAVAN STOVE TOP GLASS LID BREAKAGE

I would like to relate a very recent story to you all about how the stove top glass cover broke in our Excel van.

Our van has the standard SMEV 3 gas burner, 1 240 volt hot plate with a gas grill underneath. We had been preparing our van for our annual 4 week trip recently, stocking cupboards, checking items and cleaning things, you all know the drill.

Two nights before we are scheduled to leave, I plugged in the 240volts into the van and turned the fridge onto AC to get it cooled down before loading it up with beer (and of course food). Unknown to me at the time, the 240 volt hot plate knob had been knocked/bumped/moved clockwise to the right (No 6 setting) during our many ins and outs of the van in the preceding week.

The next morning I went into the van to check the fridge operation (to see if it was cold enough for the beer), I found shattered safety glass all over the kitchen area of the van, a nice comfy 18 degrees inside and a cherry red glow from the hot plate. At some time during the preceding 12 hours, the glass had exploded from the heat!!!!

Thankfully there was nothing flammable on the top of the glass as the van would have gone up in smoke (If only the knob had been knocked counter clockwise to No 1, the glass might not have broken). We can get a replacement glass at \$230 and it is easy to fit.

This is our second van with the same stove arrangement, never had this situation before and it will not happen again as we will be pulling out the 240 volt plug from the power point in the cupboard for the hot plate when not in use. I suggest to every one to do the same in your van, plug it in again when you need it, it might save you the hassle of replacing the glass top and a possible fire in the van.

John & Gill Booth