

Released under FOI

GAS ALERT

Some cookers have not been installed and supported adequately to prevent the cooker shaking within the installation cavity. There have been instances where the support below the cooker has broken at the rear, fixing bolts have come out or sheared off and the top timber frames have flexed placing stress on the inlet connection or pipes within the cooker.

There are a number of contributing factors that can increase the shaking inside the caravan.

- Over or uneven loading of the caravan producing incorrect ball weight.
- Travelling at high speed off bitumen.
- Leaving level ride bars connected on rough road conditions.
- The varying quality in performance of the suspension systems and wrong tire pressures.

Caravans with no shock absorbers are harder on impacts absorbed within the caravan.

WHAT YOU MUST DO

1. Contact a licensed gas fitter to check that the base of your cooker has been supported and/ or the top frame is braced to prevent flexing. If you find that the cooker is not supported as per the installation instructions and requirements of AS/NZS 5601 you must contact the caravan manufacturer to have this rectified and
2. The appliance must be checked by a licensed gas fitter for any damage and leaks. Fitting a gas leak detector is also recommended
3. If you are unsure of how to assess the installation or you are unable to contact a caravan manufacturer because it has ceased trading contact Swift for further advice on: 03 93593068 or by email accounts@swiftappliancegroup.co.au

In the USA and Canada leak detectors are now being mandated to be fitted in all caravans. Although it is not mandatory in Australia, fitting a leak detector is the best way of ensuring that leaks are detected if one develops over time. The Detector must be fitted below the cooker and inside the cabinet so that it can sound an alarm if any leak develops. If you have a gas appliance installed under the bed then a second detector should be fitted. Swift can supply a detector at minimal cost related to this alert.

This Gas Safety Alert is issued by Swift as a result of information gathered in co operation with Caravan Manufacturers, Plumbers and Repair centres.