

## Adhesives Help Repair And Refurbish Luxury Recreational Vehicles (RVs) Inside And Out



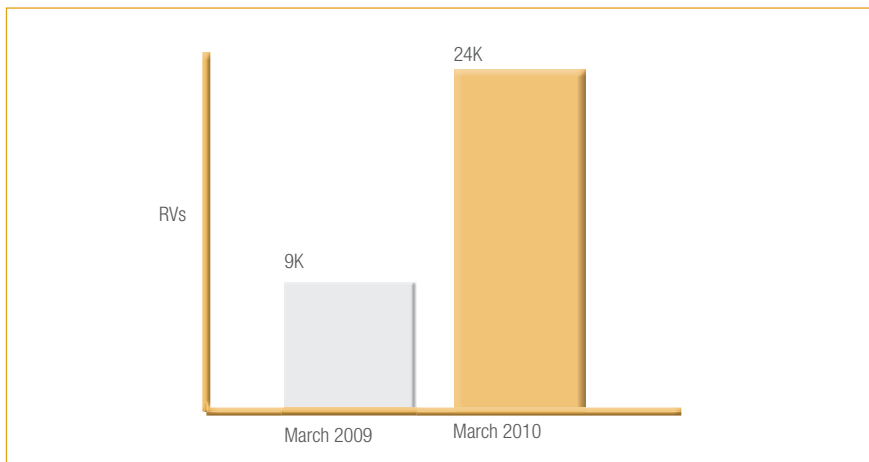
From repair to complete remodeling, selecting the right adhesive is critical on luxury RVs.

Despite the recession, sales of luxury motor homes — recreational vehicles, tour buses, movie trailers for stars — have increased by 87.5% from March 2009 to March 2010. As new RVs are rolling out, existing vehicles are coming in for repairs and refurbishment. Repair shops are committed to making an owner’s “rig” look great. They are highly skilled in interior work as well as outer body part replacement, fiberglass repair, and laminated wall repair. For RV repair companies, meeting the expectations of their exacting customers for quality work and luxurious appointments includes working with an experienced materials and adhesives partner.

### A Breed Apart

Luxury RVs, coaches, and motor homes are the second largest vehicle on the road, behind tractor trailers. Working with them requires space, expertise, and the right materials solutions. RV owners are a special breed — interested in the appearance and luxury of their vehicles as well as the functionality. A repair job might entail anything from basic maintenance and minor repair to new paint or complete gutting and remodeling.

Bonding, Joining  
& Sealing





Adhesives provide excellent bonding for RV carpet replacement, cabinet and counter top installation, and shower and tub replacement.

A pressure-sensitive, conformable, double-sided tape can replace rivets or welds for exterior panels.

Services can include:

- Water damage repair
- Rubber, metal, and fiberglass roof repair
- Floor repair
- Fire and smoke damage repair
- Fiberglass sidewall repair and replacement
- Aluminum wall panel replacement
- Compartment replacement and repair
- Entry door replacement and repair
- Ceiling repair and replacement
- Custom color matching and graphics
- Paint and body repair
- Indoor RV storage

In many of these, adhesives play a key role. Adhesives are replacing metal fastening technologies including rivets, screws, nuts, bolts, and welding. Adhesives offer a number of advantages:

- Bond a wide range of different materials including high-pressure laminates, fabric, foam, glass, fiberglass, metal plastics, ceramics, and more
- Distribute stress across the entire bonded joint so thinner, lighter materials can be used
- Provide maximum flexibility and fatigue resistance
- Bond and seal joints against corrosion
- Provide invisible fastening for improved appearance

### Selecting the right materials and adhesives solution for the application

RV repair shops working with Fabrico to select the appropriate adhesives and materials for a number of different applications. An experienced converter, like Fabrico, can identify the best solutions for each application to meet the need for quality and luxury as well as ease-of-application and cost-effective use.

### Starting outside the rig

Exterior panels on RVs have long been spot welded or riveted. Welds may leave a rough surface with poor visual appeal while fastener failures can result in rattling and panel flexing. To ensure sound and durable exterior panel repairs and replacements and create an appealing surface for graphics, Fabrico can suggest using 3M™ VHB™ tape to join the panels. The tape is conformable, double-sided, pressure-sensitive, closed-cell acrylic foam tape. It is resilient, damping vibration that can shear weld points, pull out rivets, and cause cracks in metal.

3M™ VHB™ Tape has a high peel strength and forms strong bonds, resists moisture and solvents, and can stand-up to UV light. It provides an invisible bond that delivers a smooth exterior surface, perfect for painting and custom graphics. It is easy to handle and is slit to precise widths by Fabrico for fast application. The 3M™ VHB™ tape also provides easy panel joining for the interior of the RV.



3M™ VHB™ tape provides easy panel joining for the exterior of the RV.

### **Luxury inside**

In addition to interior panels, RV repair companies also work with carpet replacement, cabinets and counter tops, upholstery, even shower and tub replacement and installation. For each application, Fabrico recommends an adhesive that can meet the requirements for strength and durability as well as luxurious appearance.

Where carpet replacement is required, 3M 94CA high-strength cylinder spray adhesive is used. This is a high solids, high coverage spray adhesive that dries quickly and permanently bonds with wood, high pressure laminate, veneer, metal, plastic, foam, and carpet.

For a wide range of interior applications where a construction sealant is required, for example in securing showers and tubs to drywall or for counter top installation, Fabrico has recommended 3M polyurethane construction sealant. This single component polyurethane elastomeric sealant forms a flexible and resilient joint with very good adhesion on most materials and is perfect for waterproofing.

For cosmetic sealing or filling, where a clear and/or paintable finish is required, a 3M clear hybrid sealant has been identified. The sealant provides excellent UV resistance, low VOC, non-shrinking, good mildew resistance, and versatile adhesion.

### **Selecting the right converter**

In addition to its adhesive expertise, Fabrico offers materials converting capabilities that include: custom design solutions, slitting, laminating, and die-cutting, including laser die-cutting, kiss-cut, and water jet cutting.

In conjunction with its parent company, EIS, Fabrico can also offer access to its Advanced Inventory Management Solutions (A.I.M.S.) to streamline the flow of materials to RV Paint Pros' professionals through automated replenishment technology.

By working with Fabrico, RV repair companies are able to save time and money in securing the right adhesive solutions for its professionals and more important, provide quality solutions to their customers that make their dreams of a luxurious motor home real.



For cosmetic sealing or filling a clear and/or paintable sealer can be used.

As an experienced converter, Fabrico offers slitting, laminating, and die-cutting capabilities in addition to adhesive expertise.

### Material Partners

Fabrico has strategic relationships with world-class materials suppliers such as 3M to assist its customers in selecting the best material for the intended use and to expedite materials sourcing. Whether adhesive films or liquids, all critical material properties are considered in any Fabrico project, including chemical, thermal, and moisture resistance.

With more than 30 years of materials experience, Fabrico engineers also understand the impact of material selection on the overall manufacturing process, and design materials systems that optimize production efficiency and improve overall cost-effectiveness.



### Fabrico Headquarters

4175 Royal Drive, Suite 800, Kennesaw, GA 30144

Phone: 678-202-2700 | Fax: 678-202-2702

Toll Free: 800-351-8273 | E-mail: [info@fabrico.com](mailto:info@fabrico.com)



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