

## Engineering Peace of Mind: The Case for Slide-Out Support Systems

Recreational Vehicles have come a long way in terms of comfort and convenience, and slideouts are a prime example of this evolution. These nifty extensions add valuable living space at the push of a button, turning any RV into a cozy home on wheels. But while slideouts offer big benefits, they also introduce structural vulnerabilities that many RV owners overlook—especially when it comes to long-term support.

Damaged slideouts cost thousands of dollars to repair and often causes people to scrap the RV. Here's why slideout supports are more than just optional gear:

### Minimize Frame Stress and Sagging

RV slideouts exert a surprising amount of pressure on the RV's frame. If you have ever tried the challenge where you just extend your arm straight out horizontally to the floor and try to hold it there, you know it is difficult, especially if you're holding a weight (like extra cargo and people in that area). Now imagine that weight is bouncing up and down (like kids and animals do). Although many slideouts are designed to support their own weight, some do not measure up initially and others just wear out with time. Here are some common issues caused by this situation:



- Sagging of the slide mechanism, leading to uneven operation or gaps in the seal.
- Warping of the RV's main structure, especially on units with a soft suspension.
- Increased wear on joints and components that aren't designed for prolonged stress.
- Gaps between the slideout and the RV, allowing for water damage.

External supports help distribute the load, reducing the strain on the RV's built-in frame and ensuring structural integrity.



### Protect Against Shifting and Tilting

Uneven terrain can wreak havoc on an unsupported slideout. You may think you have adjusted your scissor jacks properly, but that weight extended from the RV often causes them to be off. Without stabilizers:

- May cause tilting or shifting, affecting door alignment, cabinetry, and interior comfort.
- The RV's overall balance can suffer, potentially increasing the risk of tip-overs on soft ground or slopes.

Adjusting scissor jacks after extending the slideouts can create a steady foundation, minimize wobble and keeping everything secure. When combined with slideout supports shifting and tilting ceases being a problem.

### Maintain Proper Sealing and Weatherproofing

One overlooked consequence of an unsupported slideout is seal misalignment causing gaps which allow water and air in to the RV. This causes:

- Water intrusion leads to mold, mildew, and expensive repairs.
- Air gaps cause thermal insulation, making it harder to regulate temperature inside the RV.

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Supports help keep the slideout level and flush, preserving seal contact and defending against rain, drafts, and bugs.

### Reduce Mechanical Wear and Maintenance Costs

RV slideout systems involve motors, gear tracks, and hydraulics. Prolonged exposure to unsupported weight contributes to:

- Motor strain, requiring more frequent repairs or replacements.
- Track misalignment, which can cause jerky movements or noisy operation.
- Premature failure of mechanical components due to stress and lack of balance.

Investing in external supports now can save hundreds—or even thousands—in repair bills later.

### Peace of Mind When Stationary

Whether you're parked for a weekend or boondocking for months, stabilizers give RVers peace of mind:

- You'll feel less movement when walking around.
- You can enjoy the space knowing it's reinforced and protected.
- You'll extend the overall lifespan of your slideout system.

### Caution: Be sure to purchase the right slideout support

When I talk about slideout supports people often say they don't want them because they damage the slideout. That is true of supports from all other manufactures except Ultra-Fab. Ultra-Fab's design cannot damage the slideout.

Damage usually comes from overtightening of the supports. Typically, we men think everything has to be tightened as much as humanly possible. But this causes a gap between the slideout and the RV, which allows water to get inside the RV, causing water damage, sometimes severe water damage. Ultra-Fab's handleless design makes overtightening impossible. And if it were overtightened there is a nut that will give way well before there is any damage.

Additionally, Ultra-Fab's slideout supports are the fastest to setup and fastest to take down. Each unit can fit standard slideouts or Schwintech slideouts. And they are covered by a lifetime warranty.

### Final Thought

RV slideouts are engineering marvels, but like any moving part, they need a little help to perform their best. Slideout supports aren't just accessories—they're essential tools for preserving your investment, enhancing safety, and enjoying smoother adventures. Think of them as the "unsung heroes" beneath your expanded living space. Before you take your RV out again, pick up a set of Ultra-Fab Slideout Supports and save yourself massive problems down the road.



**For more information  
contact Ultra-Fab  
Products.**

customerservice@ultra-fab.com  
574.294.7571

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