

Sag Happens: The Professional Guide to Fixing Wobbly RV Slide-Outs

Raymond Padgett

If your customer owns an RV with a slide-out, they're basically living inside a miracle of mobile engineering held together by bolts, sealant, and whatever snacks fell behind the dinette in 2017.

Some manufacturers say they don't need support (some do recommend support), but here's the part most RV owners never hear: Their slide-out is working overtime. Every step, every dog jump, every toddler bounce, every "oops I dropped my phone behind the sofa" moment sends shockwaves through that extended room. Without proper support, the slide-out can start sagging, wobbling, or shaking like it's auditioning for a low-budget earthquake movie.



That's where RV slide-out supports come in — the steel-legged heroes that keep the RV stable, the slide-out protected, and the customer's dignity intact when the dog jumps off the couch and the whole camper doesn't shudder like a haunted house.

What RV slideout support actually are



Think of them as gym spotters for your slide-out — minus the sweat." RV slide-out supports are adjustable steel stands placed under the slide-out frame rails to reduce bounce, sway, and long-term sagging.

Why your customers need them

Nobody wakes up excited to buy slide-out supports - they buy them because their RV is wobbling like a toddler on roller skates. Or worse yet, gravity is winning (like it always does eventually and their slide-out is sagging (gravity is undefeated). Some customers understand the risk and purchase them to protect their investment (a \$150 insurance policy against a potential \$5,000 slideout repair). A few even search them out because they want to look like they know what they're doing at the campground

This is the perfect moment for dealers to upsell with confidence — because the value is obvious, immediate, and real.

The Great Slideout Support Myth (And How To Debunk It Like A Pro)

Supports don't destroy slide-outs. People who overtighten supports destroy slide-outs. Here's the truth your staff should teach, slide-out supports only cause damage when customers

crank them like they're trying to lift a Buick.

Over-tightening lifts the slide-out, creating a gap between the room and the RV body. That gap becomes a water invitation. Water becomes rot, mold, and expensive therapy bills.

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The fix? Snug. Not lifted. Not torqued. Not “one more turn.” Just snug.

And here’s where Ultra-Fab gives dealers a massive advantage: The handle-free design literally makes overtightening impossible. You’d need to be Superman on pre-workout to crank it too far - and even then, the safety nut strips itself before your RV ever feels a thing. It’s basically childproofing... for full-grown adults

What Slideout Support Do (And Don’t Do)

They DO reduce bounce, minimize frame stress, improve interior stability, help prevent long-term sagging, make the RV feel more solid and impress campground neighbors. They DO NOT hold the entire weight of the slide-out, replace proper leveling or fix a crooked slide-out.

Signs A Customer Definitely Needs Supports

Use these as sales cues:

- RV shakes when someone sneezes
- Slide-out bounces when the dog jumps
- Spouse asks, “Is it supposed to move like that”
- Neighbor’s margarita spills when they walk
- They’ve Googled “why is my slide-out sagging”
- They’ve started naming the noises their slide-out makes

What Customers Should Look For (an RV Professional’s Checklist)

When deciding on the right slideout supports to put in place, here are the items to review:

- Range: A range of 20”–40” fits most RVs. Supports are available in ranges of 16” up to 47”. Be sure to measure the distance between the ground and the slideout rails. Do this while on a level surface.
- Weight Rating: Most come in at 5,000lbs per support. The truth is that you aren’t trying to lift the slideout so the capacity only needs to accommodate the extra stress from movement inside the slideout. So even supports with 1,200lb capacity will do a fine job.
- Construction: Only steel will do. That’s right, a support made from paper mache just will not cut it. Look for a wide base so it stays stable. And a powder-coat design will last longer and be rust free longer.
- Adjustment Mechanism: There are Twist-Locks and there are Ratcheting designs
 - Twist Lock: the classic “twist until snug” system
 - Advantages: They are simple. Customers understand “twist to tighten” without a demo. They have fewer moving parts so there is less to break, less to jam, fewer headaches. They have good fine-tuning control - you can dial in the height precisely.
 - Disadvantages: If they have a handle, they are easy to overtighten. Customers LOVE “one more turn,” which is how slide-outs get lifted. They can be slower to adjust but some designs (again, take a look at Ultra-Fab) are able to be set-up in 10 seconds each).
 - Ratchet Design: the “click-click-click” model.
 - Advantages: They are easy for all ages. Minimal strength is required; the ratchet does the work.



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- Disadvantages: VERY easy to overtighten. Ratchets encourage people to “just give it a few more clicks.” There are more moving parts so there is more potential for dirt, rust, or mechanical failure. They can easily jam, especially if customers store them wet or muddy (which they will). They are definitely noisy.

Feature	What It Means	Why It Matters for RV Owners	What to Look For (Best Case)
Height Range	The minimum and maximum extension of the support.	Ensures the support actually reaches your slide out rails without over extending.	20"–40" range fits most RVs; telescoping tubes with smooth adjustment.
Weight Rating	How much load the support can safely handle.	Higher ratings = more stability and longer life.	5,000 lbs. per support; heavy duty steel construction.
Construction Material	What the support is made of.	Determines durability, weather resistance, and long term reliability.	Powder coated steel, rust resistant hardware, welded joints.
Top Surface Design	The part that contacts the slide out rail.	Determines if it can be used on standard slide-outs and/or Schwintek	If you can't see the rails, you want to make sure your choice is compatible with Schwintek
Base Plate Size	The footprint of the support on the ground.	Bigger base = better stability on dirt, gravel, or uneven surfaces.	Wide, reinforced base with anti-sink design.
Adjustment Mechanism	How you raise/lower the support.	Impacts ease of use and precision.	Twist lock handles, ratchet systems, or quick adjust pins.
Corrosion Resistance	Protection against rust and weather.	Supports live outside — they need to survive rain, humidity, and road grime.	Powder coating, zinc plated hardware, UV resistant finishes.
Ease of Setup	How quickly a customer can install it.	Retail buyers want simple, fast, frustration free gear.	Tool free setup, clear markings, intuitive adjustments.
Portability & Storage	How easy it is to store when not in use.	RV storage space is precious.	Collapsible design, compact footprint, lightweight but strong. Look for a storage bag designed specifically for slide-out supports.
Safety Features	Built in protections to prevent damage from being overtightened.	Prevents over tightening, slipping, or frame stress.	Anti over crank design.
Brand Reputation	Trustworthiness of the manufacturer.	RV customers want gear that lasts and won't damage their rig.	Brands known for RV hardware and stabilization products.
Warranty	Manufacturer guarantee.	Shows confidence in product quality.	Look for a lifetime warranty.

What to say to your customers

Ultra-Fab's slideout supports don't just prevent damage — it prevents user error.”. The Ultra-Fab handle-free design means:

- No overtightening
- No accidental lifting
- No water intrusion
- No angry warranty claims
- No “my buddy said these ruin RVs” arguments

Why Ultra-Fab is the Dealer's Best Choice

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Ultra-Fab has a number of unique and valuable advantages. We call them our Ultra-Advantages as they are unique to Ultra-fab and/or they can't be beaten in the industry. Some include:

- Not being able to overtighten (I know I'm harping on this, but it's important)
- A Lifetime warranty (and no one can beat a lifetime warranty)
- Being the fastest setup and fastest takedown
- Add to that our Guaranteed Sales Agreement and our reputation for quality. This is what allows dealers to confidently recommend these products without worrying about callbacks, complaints, or campground conspiracy theories.

Category	Ultra Fab	Camco	Stromberg Carlson	EAZ LIFT	Husky	LIBRA
Construction Quality	Heavy duty steel, welded joints, excellent durability	Good quality for the price; lighter steel	Solid steel, good welds, dependable	Good steel quality; better than standard Camco	Good steel, decent welds	Decent steel; not premium but solid
Height Range Options	21" - 47"	19" - 47"	20" - 34"	19" - 47"	20"-40"	20"-42"
Weight Rating	5,000lb each	5,000lb each	5,000lb each	5,000lb each	5,000lb each	5,000lb each
Stability & Design	Wide bases, strong tubing, very stable	Decent stability; some models have smaller bases	Very stable; tripod options available	Wide bases, strong tubing	Stable, but bases vary by model	Stability varies; some models have narrow bases
Ease of Adjustment	* Fastest to put in place and take down. * Smooth telescoping, easy twist locks	Simple twist adjust; beginner friendly	Smooth adjustments; good ergonomics	Quick adjust pins + twist tops	Easy adjustments; simple mechanisms	Basic adjustments; functional
Warranty	Lifetime	1-year	2-year	1-year	1-year	1-year
Schwintek Compatible	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes
Quick Set-Up	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Weak Spots	Slightly heavier	Not as heavy duty; can flex under heavy loads	Slightly bulkier designs	Limited model variety	Not as heavy duty as BAL or Ultra Fab	Inconsistent quality; not ideal for heavy slide outs

How to talk to your customers

You can probably cover these with customers with ease, but in case you want a couple of ideas on how to broach the subject...

- The "Long-Term Camper" Script
 - Dealer: "Are you parked long-term or moving around a lot?"
 - Customer: "We're parked most of the season."
 - Dealer: "Then you definitely want supports. When a slide sit extended for weeks or months, gravity wins. These keep everything straight, supported, and sealed tight. Ultra-Fab's are the safest because you physically can't overtighten them."
 - Dealer: "Your slide height puts you in this model right here."
- The "Packaging Does the Work" Script
 - Dealer: "If you want the quick version, scan this QR code. It shows a 30-second video so you don't have to take my word for it. Customers love it because it explains everything without a 20-minute engineering lecture."

The upsell

When talking to customers, we recommend that you also recommend our 19-960004 (Storage Bag). Finally, a bag designed just for your RV slideout supports—no more tossing them loose in the basement and hoping for the best. Perfect for Ultra-Fab slideouts but also works with all known brands of slideout supports. If it's a slideout support, this bag probably gets along with it. Heavy-duty, weather-resistant fabric protects against dust, dirt, and road grime. Basically, body armor for your supports. Internal partition

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prevents scratching, denting, or “support-on-support crime” during travel. Peace and order restored. Comfortable grip for quick transport.

How Ultra-Fab Helps You Sell More Slideout Supports

Knowing which slide-out supports to recommend is half the battle. The other half is making sure your store is set up so customers practically sell themselves. Here's what every dealership should have locked and loaded:

- Perfect Packaging** (a.k.a. “Silent Salesperson That Never Calls In Sick”): Ultra-Fab’s packaging doesn’t just sit there — it works the aisle for you. It grabs attention, pulls customers straight into the slide-out support section, and spells out exactly what they need to make a confident buying decision. And the QR code? That’s your secret weapon. One quick scan launches a fast, customer-friendly video so your team doesn’t have to deliver a 20-minute engineering dissertation. Result: customers get educated, get confident, and buy from YOU on the spot.
- Signage That Actually Works** (Not the dusty “SALE” sign from 1998): Ultra-Fab gives you a sharp, professional shelf talker that grabs attention and explains exactly why these supports matter. Even better - it includes a QR code that launches a quick, customer-friendly video so your staff doesn’t have to give a 20-minute engineering lecture. Buy just TWO slideout supports and we’ll send you the sign FREE. Yes, free. Zero dollars. No catch.
- A Planogram That Makes the Customer’s Choice Easy**: Ultra-Fab’s plug-and-play planogram



features the best-selling SKUs your customers actually want:

- 2 of 19-960002 (21"–37" Slideout Supports)
- 2 of 19-960003 (26"–47" Slideout Supports)
- 2 of 19-960004 (Storage Bag for Slideout Supports)
- 1 Shelf Talker
- 2 Shelf Strips

Set it, stock it, and watch customers point at the display and say, “Yep, that’s what I need.”

Final Thoughts

Stop babying that poor slide-out and give it the support it deserves. Stock Ultra-Fab Slide-Out Supports, recommend them to every slide-out owner, and watch your customers thank you when their RV stops wobbling like a carnival ride.

If you want your sales numbers to thank you / If you want your profits to thank you / If you want thrilled customers to thank you / Reach out to Raymond Padgett (404.754.8928 or raymond@ultra-fab.com) today and order your supply of Ultra-Fab Slideout Supports.

Review Questions

- 1) What is the primary purpose of slide-out supports?
 - A. To hold the full weight of the slide-out

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- B. To reduce bounce, sway, and long-term sagging
 - C. To replace proper leveling
 - D. To fix crooked slide-outs
- 2) What is the correct way to set a slide-out support?*
- A. Tighten until the slide-out lifts slightly
 - B. Crank it as hard as possible
 - C. Set it snug — not lifted, not torqued
 - D. Leave it loose so it can “settle”
- 3) Why is overtightening dangerous?*
- A. It voids the RV warranty
 - B. It creates a gap that invites water intrusion
 - C. It makes the RV lean
 - D. It causes the support to collapse
- 4) How does Ultra-Fab’s handle-free design protect customers?*
- A. It makes the supports lighter
 - B. It prevents customers from adjusting the height
 - C. It makes overtightening nearly impossible
 - D. It locks the support in place permanently
- 5) What is the first step in choosing the correct Ultra-Fab support?*
- A. Guess based on RV brand
 - B. Measure ground-to-slide-rail height
 - C. Check the RV’s VIN
 - D. Ask the customer what color they prefer
- 6) Which of the following is a sign a customer definitely needs supports?*
- A. Their slide-out is brand new
 - B. Their RV shakes when someone walks or the dog jumps
 - C. They only camp once a year
 - D. Their slide-out is smaller than average
- 7) Which construction features should a dealer recommend?*
- A. Plastic legs and a narrow base
 - B. Aluminum tubing and a ratchet head
 - C. Steel construction, wide base, powder-coat finish
 - D. Wood blocks and duct tape
- 8) What do slide-out supports NOT do?*
- A. Reduce bounce
 - B. Improve interior stability
 - C. Replace proper leveling
 - D. Help prevent long-term sagging
- 9) Which of the following is an Ultra-Fab advantage?*
- A. Short 90-day warranty
 - B. Ratchet system that encourages overtightening
 - C. Lifetime warranty and fastest setup/takedown
 - D. Plastic construction for lightweight travel
- 10) What is the recommended upsell with every slide-out support purchase?*

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- A. A bottle of sealant
 - B. A new slide-out motor
 - C. The 19-960004 Storage Bag
 - D. A leveling block kit
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- 1) B
- 2) C
- 3) B
- 4) C
- 5) B
- 6) B
- 7) C
- 8) C
- 9) C
- 10) C