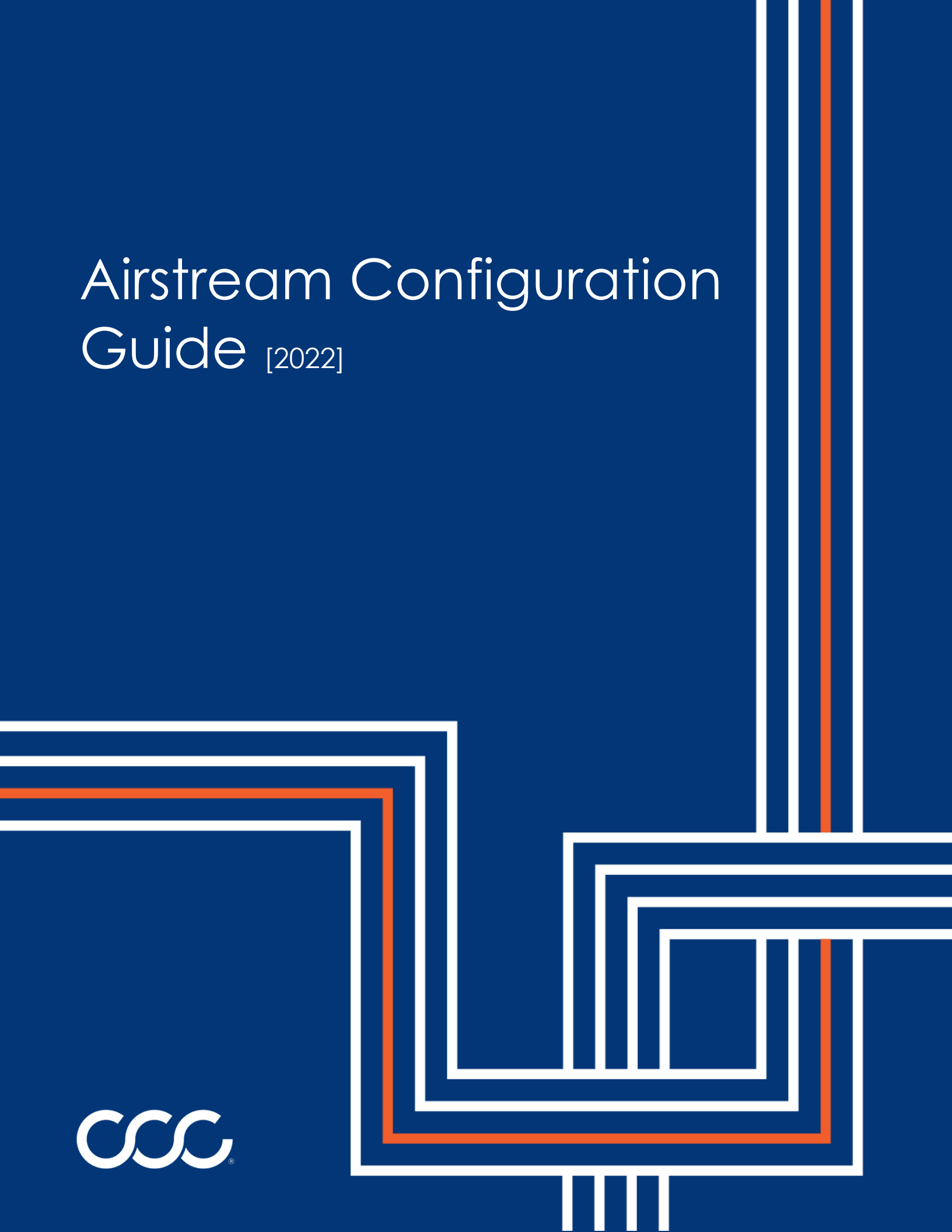


# Airstream Configuration Guide [2022]



## Introduction

Airstream is a popular manufacturer of high-dollar travel trailers and motorhomes. They are characterized by an aluminum and stainless steel “skin” and aerodynamic shape. These trailers began production in 1931 and have been an industry icon ever since. Airstream travel trailers are constructed with ease of towing in mind, and so will often feature torsion axles for a smoother ride, and centrally located water tanks to aid in maintaining balance.

Travel Trailers and Motorhomes are two general vehicle classifications used to describe units used for recreation. Generally, they are associated with camping. Each manufacturer places the model of the unit in different areas. The typical model for a recreational vehicle is listed on the outside bottom left of the main door; some are listed on the aluminum plate that also lists the VIN. The series has decal on the unit in big letters. For all valuations, please provide CCC the year, make and model of the unit. Also, provide the VIN whenever possible and all travel trailer or motorhome options.

### **Please note:**

- The full configuration guide should be reviewed for additional items that may enhance the overall value of the loss.
- Configuration changes to existing valuations may result in a new valuation.
- This is not an all-inclusive list. Please include any pictures, pricing information and/or build sheets when available.

## What is the camper or motorhome's year, make, model, and series?

- How it should be listed:
  - 2010 Airstream M-23 Flying Cloud
  - 2010 Airstream M-23FB Flying Cloud

Airstreams are measured end to end, from the center of the hitch to the end of the rear bumper. In many cases, Airstream floor plans indicate the trailer length, however there can be some variation and floor plan specifications will provide accurate trailer dimensions.

Series plates may often be located toward the rear of the trailer.

Airstream’s website also features a large document archive where brochures and floorplans can be accessed by year, product, or keyword. <https://www.airstream.com/owners/document-archive/>

JD Power also has model and series information for Airstream models as old as 1966. Because Airstream’s floorplan and specification documents may not distinctly differentiate between varying floorplans of the same lengths for all models, reference JD Power to ensure the correct model is selected for the value.

## The Essential Questions

### Information needed on Airstream Trailers

- The full configuration guide should be reviewed for additional items that may enhance the overall value of the loss
- Configuration changes to existing valuations may result in a new valuation
- Power slide outs are considered standard after the year 2000
- 1 auxiliary battery is standard after the year 1999
- The year/make/model of Motorhomes may not be the same as the VIN decoded chassis information
- Typically, the model number indicates the layout on a Travel Trailer or Motorhome. *This is less common in Airstream models; however, it is sometimes present. Most common is FB, which designates a floorplan with a bed (or twin beds) in the front of the unit, nearest to the front hitch.*

## Airstream Special Models and Features

**Bambi** - "Bambi" refers to a single-axle Airstream travel trailer. It is not necessarily a model or series, as this is applied to any Airstream with one axle. It was first used as a nickname for the first single-axle Airstream, which was produced in 1961. These models vary in length from 16' to 22' and are easier to pull with lighter, more fuel-efficient cars.



**Argosy** - These travel trailers were introduced in the 1970s as a medium-priced trailer line. They had their own plant for construction but were not considered “actual” Airstreams at the time. Owners were not eligible to join owner’s club activities or Airstream rallies. The actual structure and construction were not very different from “actual” Airstreams, though they were made of lower-grade aluminum that would later be painted. The Argosy-specific plant was closed in 1979, although the Argosy line of travel trailers was briefly reintroduced in 1986 and produced through 1989. These models featured fiberglass end caps and a square design.

**Nest**- New in 2019, the Nest is one of Airstream’s smaller units. It features a fiberglass body instead of Airstream’s iconic aluminum exterior. At the same time, it’s design is in line with Airstream’s other design elements.



**Airstream “Big Red Numbers”** - Originally given to keep track of Airstreams on Caravan trips in the 1950s, it became common for Airstreams to be issued unique, red numbers. These days, owners that join the Wally Byam Caravan Club International, a club exclusively for Airstream owners, are assigned an official identification number for the duration of their membership.

These numbers do not appear to have a bearing on the condition or value of the trailer, as numbers can be transferred to any Airstream: they are self-adhesive and can be peeled off or reassigned as trailers change hands from owner to owner. Peeled off numbers may be referred to as “Ghost Numbers” - these numbers may be reclaimed, but the WBCII only awards them.

## Equipment

**Stab Jacks:** Stab/Scissor jacks are manual, all electric or powered front jacks used to level the Travel Trailer once they are placed in the location they wish to camp.



**Hitch Jack:** Located on the tongue or hitch, this jack is used to remove the travel trailer from the vehicle's hitch. Hitch jacks can be power or manual crank style. Sometimes these are used in place of stab jacks on smaller travel trailers. On the left is an example of a manual hitch jack. On the right, is a power hitch jack.



**Fiberglass Siding:** Fiberglass can be an option for some models or upgrade other models. It is generally more durable and less prone to denting. This is not a standard feature on Airstream travel trailers, as most will have the distinct silver-aluminum siding, however it may be present on older Airstream motorhomes.

**TV:** Please provide CCC the number of TVs, type (HD or LED and TV/DVD combo), and each TV's size (measured diagonally).

**Inverter:** Most Travel Trailers come standard with a converter that changes AC electricity into DC electricity for the trailer's equipment to run on. An option on a Travel Trailer would be an inverter that changes DC power into AC power for other uses. Generally, a wattage is listed on the casing to tell what level of power it can provide.

**Generators:** Generators can come equipped on almost any Travel Trailer, but they are more likely to be standard equipment on toy haulers. Generators are rated in different sizes, usually from 2kw – 8kw. Please indicate the size or make/model of the Travel Trailer's generator to include it in the value. For large generators (6-8 kw) please provide CCC whether the unit is gas or diesel-powered.

**Cabinetry Upgrade:** The owner completely removes the original cabinetry and installs new cabinetry of a higher quality. Some manufacturers will offer higher-grade cabinetry as well. Usually, this is listed on the build sheet of an individual unit.

**Hide a Bed:** This may be standard or an upgrade depending on the model of the Travel Trailer. These are similar to a hide a bed you would find in your home.

**Gas Grill Cooktop:** This option is very rare in the world of Travel Trailers. Most travel trailers use propane and gas stove tops, making a gas grill cooktop option upgrade expensive. The food can be placed directly on the cooktop and used as a grill. Most Travel Trailers do not list this option from the factory.

Basic microwave - has the hood below it



Microwave/hood combo



Outside Shower

Skylight



Monitor Panel



Power Roof Vent



Awning



Window Awning

Backup Camera



## Older Airstream Configuration

Prior to 1990, Airstream did not incorporate numbers into their models and instead used names like Excella, Globetrotter, Safari, Sovereign, Overlander, and many others. For Airstreams produced in the 1980s, the model is an indication of standard equipment and interior color schemes. Available options, rather than length or floor plan indicate the model. A 1980 Excella II model, for example, may be available in 25', 28', and 31' lengths, all of which may have the option of a twin or double bed layout. For these models, it will be important to have the correct length measurement and any information regarding the interior layout when possible.

### Restored/Refurbished Units:

When the loss unit has had considerable remodeling or renovation work done, but has not been fully restored (where the loss was completely disassembled, all components were refurbished or replaced to new factory original condition, and very few components were customized), it may be preferable to rate the loss in Excellent condition. It can also be indicated in some other way that work has been completed so that our valuers can attempt to find comparables in similar conditions or make a monetary adjustment to account for the difference in condition. If the loss is restored per the above parameters, we will attempt to locate restored comparables in the market for the valuation.

In both cases, providing any available photos of the loss will allow our valuers to review and determine appropriate comparables for valuation purposes. As with private passenger vehicles, the amount spent on a restoration/significant refurbishment can be helpful, as it will help us gauge the extent of the work done however is not always an indication of the overall value in the market.

## Motorhome Types and Classifications



Motor homes are motorized recreational vehicles. Motorhomes come in four basic classes. On higher dollar units, a build sheet is beneficial to determine exact options and pricing.

## Class A

Class A motorhomes are built on custom chassis specifically made for motorhome use. These chassis can come in gas or diesel variations and are generally the most expensive class of motorhome.

Most Airstream motorhome models pre-2007 will be Class As. Most do not have the iconic aluminum exterior look seen on Airstream travel trailers. As with non-Airstream motorhomes, gas and diesel engines are available, they can be equipped with slide-outs, and the floorplan or general layout may be similar to other Class A floorplans.

**Standard Predominant Options: Automatic Transmission, Overdrive, Power Steering, Power Brakes, Luggage/Ladder rack, Styled Steel Wheels, Air Conditioner (chassis), Tilt Wheel, Cruise Control, Furnace, Roof Air Conditioner, Electrical Hookups, Oven/Stove, Refrigerator, Sink, Full Bath (shower/tub & toilet), Water Heater, Water Storage, Spare Tire, Propane.**

## Class B

Class B motorhomes are built using a van chassis to make the necessary camping conversions. This must include water storage, water hookups, sink, cabinetry, and a bed.

Airstream models built after 2007 are predominantly Class B motorhomes. They are predominantly diesel engines built on Mercedes-Benz chassis, and slide-outs are uncommon/unavailable for these models.

**Standard Predominant Options: Automatic Transmission, Overdrive, Power Steering, Power Brakes, Luggage/Ladder rack, Styled Steel Wheels, Air Conditioner (chassis), Tilt Wheel, Cruise Control, Furnace, Roof Air Conditioner, Electrical Hookups, Oven/Stove, Refrigerator, Sink, Full Bath (shower/tub & toilet), Water Heater, Water Storage, Spare Tire, Propane**



## Class C

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Class C motorhomes are built on a chassis of a van or truck. The RV manufacturer will build the living space from there. The living space is much larger than the Class B and Micro-mini classes and therefore will typically have much more equipment on these classes. There are few Airstream Class C motorhomes available, though the Atlas series released in 2019 is one such model.

**Standard Predominant Options: Automatic Transmission, Overdrive, Power Steering, Power Brakes, Luggage/Ladder rack, Styled Steel Wheels, Air Conditioner (chassis), Tilt-Wheel, Cruise Control, Furnace, Roof Air Conditioner, Electrical Hookups, Oven/Stove, Refrigerator, Sink, Full Bath (shower/tub & toilet), Water Heater, Water Storage, Spare Tire, Propane**

## Additional Equipment

Motorhomes have a similar build and level of equipment as travel trailers. They share many similarities when it comes to the living quarter options. However, motorhomes do have equipment that is not shared and can be optional to an individual unit. Below are some examples of this equipment.

**On-Demand Water Heater:** Also known by the brand name Aqua-Hot, this tankless water heater is an upgraded option for many motorhomes.

**In Motion Satellite System:** This system allows users to watch satellite television while traveling. It locates a satellite signal while moving towards the next destination.

**Full Body Paint:** Some RV Manufacturers offer an option for the entire unit to be painted in stylish schemes, typically at an extra cost to the customer. This expense is due to the level of detail and work involved.

## Additional Questions for Motorhome Valuations

1. The type of leveling system used on the Motorhome.
2. The size and type of refrigerator, including whether there is an icemaker.
3. All entertainment options, including TVs (TV sizes if available), DVD players, and radio systems.
4. Driver comfort features, including leather seats, power seats, back up camera, radio options, and GPS systems.

Travel Trailer and Motorhome valuations primarily derive from the make and model information and any equipment not standard to those models.

**Note:** This is not an all-inclusive list. Please include any pictures, pricing information or build sheets when available.