

Slide Topper Disintegrated Mid-Trip

Submission from a viewer in Colorado. Two thousand miles into a trip. Slide topper started disintegrating in the wind. By Denver, it was confetti.

Slide toppers are vinyl or acrylic fabric stretched between the wall and the slide-out. They protect the slide-out top from debris and water. UV destroys them over time. Most last five to seven years.

Failure pattern — vinyl gets brittle, cracks at the highest-stress spots, then a road-trip wind finishes the job. Often in a tunnel or canyon where the wind concentrates.

Inspection — every spring. Squeeze the fabric. If it crackles like dry paper, it's done. Replace before the trip. Replacement cost — sixty to one-hundred per topper depending on size, two hours to install.

THE BOTTOM LINE

Submit your slide-topper horror at crappyrv.com slash allies. They're always good.