



Hope you all enjoyed or found some thing useful in the tyre article. Here is my second submission, hope this is of some use to members also.

A problem we encounter all too often, are customer's whose caravan trips, and site trips, RCD's, keep tripping out while using appliances within the caravan. Very often this is down to misuse, rather than an actual fault.

Below are two useful tables. The first, *Table 1*, is a list of common abbreviations you may encounter when using your camper or caravan. *Table 2*, Is watts to amps conversion table, which will give you a ruff guide as to how many amps you may be using at any one time. Please remember though, it is only an approximate guide, and can not be exact. The amps being used will vary, depending on the voltage, and as the voltage is never the same in any two places, so the amps will also vary. I have recorded voltages of any where between 225 volts and 245 volts at different sites. The results in the amps column have been worked out using a standard voltage of 230 volts. If you wish you could cut out the table below and stick it inside your wardrobe door of your caravan for future reference. For those who wish to work out your own amperages, the formula is as follows; Watts divided by Volts = Amps (100 watts divided by 230 volts = 0.43 amps)

Table 1

CPC	Circuit protective conductor or Earth
CU	Consumer Unit
ELV	Extra Low Voltage. In your caravan/camper this refers to the 12v system
MCB	Miniature Circuit Breaker
PIR	Periodic Inspection Report
RCD	Residual Current Device
A	Amps
W	Watts
V	Volts
KW	Kilowatt

There are 1000 watts in a kilowatt

Table 2

Appliance	Rating (Watts)	Amps used
Light bulb	40	0.1
Laptop	50	0.2
Light Bulb	60	0.2
Battery Charger	100	0.4
Fridge	125	0.5
Large Fridge	220	0.9
Truma Utrastore (series 2 & 3)	450	1.9
Truma Ultraheat (low setting)	500	2.1
Low wattage caravan kettle	750	3.2
Truma Utrastore (Series 3)	850	3.6
Truma Ultraheat (Mid setting)	1000	4.3
Alde Heating (setting 1)	1000	4.3
Truma Ultrheat High setting)	2000	8.6
Alde Heating (setting 2)	2000	8.6
Household Kettle	2500	10.8
Alde Heating (setting 3)	3000	13.0
Household Kettle (fast boil)	3000	13.0
Microwave	600 - 1500	2.6 – 6.5
Toaster	800 - 1200	3.4 – 5.2
Hairdryer	400 - 2000	1.7 – 8.6

It is also worth noting which appliances you have on each MCB and its rating; you may have more than one appliance on each MCB. For instance, you may have your Truma Ultraheat space heater and all the sockets running off of one MCB, which may be only rated at 10 or 16 Amps. Let us say you have the Ultraheat on its high setting, 8.6 A and a 2500w kettle, 10.8A, plugged into a socket and switched on at the same time, they come to 19.4 Amps. You could also have your charger and fridge running off of the mains which is almost another 1 Amp.

Please note that in the new Bailey Alu-tech caravans with the Alde heating systems fitted, you have possible settings of, 1, 2, and 3. These are Kw's and on setting 3 you could be using 13 Amps.

I think this would be an ideal time to mentioning the PIR check, periodical inspection report; this is a check, undertaken of your mains electrical system. This check must only be undertaken by some one qualified to do so. It is part of the UK Wiring Regulations and recommended by caravan and motorhome manufacturers. This check should be undertaken at least every three years on modern vehicles. **Some** campsites may even require evidence of this electrical check having been completed. Most however, at this stage, do not do so and take the view that there responsibility for electrical safety ends at the bollard and the user, you, is responsible thereafter. It is worth noting that if your caravan ever suffered an electrical fire, and you do not have a valid PIR check for it, you may well find yourself on a sticky wicket regarding an insurance payout.

For any further information on any of the above please feel free to contact Andy from Caravan Servicing 4U.