



## SUFFOLK CENTRE

### TIPS AND IDEAS



(Researched and written by Chris Sanderson)

#### Thetford Toilet Waste tanks – Auto Vent problems.



This tip applies to the grey coloured versions of the waste tank, but the information could also apply to earlier beige versions. So what's the Auto –Vent – well it's the gadget fitted to the top of the waste tank (normally close to the discharge spout) that pops up each time you withdraw the tank from its housing and which gets compressed into its open position when you push the waste tank into position. Its purpose is to prevent a build up of gas in the waste tank, when the toilet flap is closed, by allowing a controlled amount of gas to slowly escape. A float incorporated into the vent shuts off the venting action should the level of waste rise above a certain level.

A problem can occur that allows the vent to stick in the open position when you withdraw the waste tank allowing waste fluid to escape. The problem is easy to identify viz either the valve pops up immediately when pushed down or sticks down or is slow to recover. The problem can be solved in two ways – (1).

Purchase a new auto vent from your caravan dealer for £11 or so or (2). – apply the following and save the money.

a) To remove the auto vent turn it 90 degrees (quarter turn) clockwise or anticlockwise and pull to remove.

b) You will now observe the float part of the unit (white plastic assembly with polystyrene foam disk). Whilst applying slight pressure against the spring and holding the grey part still, rotate the float through 90 degrees and it should then separate from the rest of the assembly. The vent plunger can then be removed complete with spring.

c) Clean all parts taking care not to damage the polystyrene foam float. Lubricate the rubber “O” ring on the plunger with petroleum jelly and reassemble.

d) Finally apply some petroleum jelly to the “O” ring that seals the vent to the tank body and reinstate vent to tank.