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Bill & Kelly's American Odyssey (<http://bkamericanodyssey.com/>)

Traveling Across America



Bedroom Slide Floor Repair

AUG
25

[KELLY \(HTTP://BKAMERICANODYSSEY.COM/AUTHOR/JRZYGRL64AOL-COM/\)](http://bkamericanodyssey.com/author/jrzygrl64aol-com/)



Not sure when it was I mentioned it before, but water had got into our bedroom slide and damaged the floor. There was a gap in silicone between the wall and the trim piece, about 5 inches, and it was enough to cause some rot to develop in the floor.



(https://i0.wp.com/bkamericanodyssey.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/img_1651.jpg)

The area between my fingers is missing silicone caulk



(https://i1.wp.com/bkamericanodyssey.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/img_1650.jpg)

If you zoom in you can see where the caulk is missing

This is our largest repair to date, and hopefully it keeps that title for a LONG time - preferably for always!

To answer the most obvious question, "what were the symptoms?", how did we know something was wrong? I have will show you a few pics.



(https://i2.wp.com/bkamericanodyssey.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/img_3303.jpg)

This is the outside of the bottom of our bedroom slide looking up, our bedroom slide is much longer than most, due to it extending into the hallway (our bedroom stairs are opposite the door) – you can also see that the screws have fallen out



(https://i1.wp.com/bkamericanodyssey.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/img_3308.jpg)

This is what it should look like

As you can see when comparing - the top pic shows the floor pushing up where the floor roller sits when the slide is in. This is because the wood is rotted.



(https://i0.wp.com/bkamericanodyssey.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/img_3315.jpg)

This screw didn't fall out, but did break off when Bill removed it due to rust



(https://i1.wp.com/bkamericanodyssey.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/img_3314.jpg)

This one is rusted but not bad enough to break - yet - I'm sure it would have eventually



(https://i1.wp.com/bkamericanodyssey.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/img_3312.jpg)

Day 1:

The trim pieces were removed.



(https://i2.wp.com/bkamericanodyssey.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/img_3317.jpg)

This held on by 3 small screws and silicone sealant on the back.



(https://i1.wp.com/bkamericanodyssey.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/img_3318.jpg)

These tiny screws were painted different colors.



(https://i2.wp.com/bkamericanodyssey.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/img_3319.jpg)

You can see some silicone used to help hold the trim in place.



(https://i2.wp.com/bkamericanodyssey.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/img_3320.jpg)

More trim to remove



(https://i1.wp.com/bkamericanodyssey.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/img_3324.jpg)

Bill used a utility knife or a painters tool to help remove the trim.



(https://i0.wp.com/bkamericanodyssey.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/img_3327.jpg)

There was a lot of butyl caulk to remove



(https://i0.wp.com/bkamericanodyssey.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/img_3328.jpg)

More caulk to be removed off slide



(https://i2.wp.com/bkamericanodyssey.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/img_3322-1.jpg)

Front trim piece was removed also



(https://i1.wp.com/bkamericanodyssey.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/img_3331.jpg)

Separating the floor from the trim piece



(https://i2.wp.com/bkamericanodyssey.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/img_3335.jpg)

Cutting the silicone caulk. This is the area that was missed causing the leak and damage!



(https://i1.wp.com/bkamericanodyssey.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/img_3336.jpg)

Gently removing trim piece



(https://i1.wp.com/bkamericanodyssey.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/img_3341.jpg)

Loosening stuck areas



(https://i1.wp.com/bkamericanodyssey.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/img_3342.jpg)

Easier to remove trim now



(https://i0.wp.com/bkamericanodyssey.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/img_3344.jpg)

Trim removed



(https://i0.wp.com/bkamericanodyssey.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/img_3346-1.jpg)

First peek at damage - UGH - worse than expected!



(https://i1.wp.com/bkamericanodyssey.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/img_3349.jpg)

This area of floor is literally crumbling apart!



(https://i0.wp.com/bkamericanodyssey.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/img_3351.jpg)

Removing hidden trim piece



(https://i1.wp.com/bkamericanodyssey.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/img_3352.jpg)

Front piece



(https://i0.wp.com/bkamericanodyssey.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/img_3356.jpg)

Jacking up 2x4's to hold the weight of the slide



(https://i1.wp.com/bkamericanodyssey.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/img_3357.jpg)

We needed the weight to be fully off the rollers if there was any hope of replacing the entire floor



(https://i1.wp.com/bkamericanodyssey.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/img_3359.jpg)

Bill was able to get the end slides fully off the rollers because the weight could be on the wall area, but the middle would not lift high enough. If we had a "usual" bedroom slide it would have been possible, but this slide is 13' long. There isn't anywhere to support the middle.



(https://i2.wp.com/bkamericanodyssey.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/img_3360.jpg)

Once Bill determined he could not remove the floor in one piece (which was preferred) he moved right on to Plan B - using a router to half cut the old floor and the new floor so there would be an overlap for strength



(https://i1.wp.com/bkamericanodyssey.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/img_3365.jpg)

Slow and steady!



(https://i2.wp.com/bkamericanodyssey.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/img_3366.jpg)

Almost done with this piece

This marks the end of day one. Bill worked on it for about 3 1/2 hours.

Day 2:

Now that the old floor is ready to remove the inside needs to be taken apart.



(https://i2.wp.com/bkamericanodyssey.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/img_3394.jpg)

Took the drawer out to get to the floor beneath



(https://i0.wp.com/bkamericanodyssey.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/img_3392.jpg)

Emptied the closet



(https://i2.wp.com/bkamericanodyssey.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/img_3390.jpg)

Took out bottom pantry drawer



(https://i0.wp.com/bkamericanodyssey.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/img_3398.jpg)

Pulling up the rug and vapor barrier



(https://i2.wp.com/bkamericanodyssey.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/img_3403.jpg)

First glimpse of damage - not too bad



(https://i0.wp.com/bkamericanodyssey.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/img_3406.jpg)

Ok - now that's BAD - yuck!



(https://i1.wp.com/bkamericanodyssey.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/img_3402.jpg)

This isn't good either



(https://i2.wp.com/bkamericanodyssey.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/img_3410.jpg)

Taking the bed apart



(https://i2.wp.com/bkamericanodyssey.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/img_3411.jpg)

More bed to take apart



(https://i1.wp.com/bkamericanodyssey.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/img_3412.jpg)

More damage



(https://i1.wp.com/bkamericanodyssey.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/img_3396.jpg)

Brand new floor - before cutting



(https://i1.wp.com/bkamericanodyssey.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/img_3415.jpg)

Transferring measurements to new floor. Measure twice - cut once!



(https://i1.wp.com/bkamericanodyssey.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/img_3417.jpg)

Attaching the guide to cut away damaged floor



(<https://i0.wp.com/bkamericanodyssey.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/d8965b14-7e4d-4110-9410-64ae25535ab0.jpg>)

Setting the saw depth to 1 1/16" the thickness of the floor



(<https://i1.wp.com/bkamericanodyssey.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/1819fb79-5b25-4243-9983-df4106d14b4d.jpg>)

Cutting the bad part of the floor off



(<https://i2.wp.com/bkamericanodyssey.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/2c95292c-ff0f-45df-87af-5c0a8fcf3017.jpg>)

Bad section of floor removed. Notice the 3" of lap on the remaining floor. This will match up with the new floor creating a strong lap joint



(<https://i2.wp.com/bkamericanodyssey.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/299e7bbc-30b0-4351-8f7e-b6f226553711.jpg>)

View from inside the camper



(<https://i1.wp.com/bkamericanodyssey.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/e81058b2-cc9f-42b1-809b-5b43ef537506.jpg>)

Damaged section removed



(<https://i1.wp.com/bkamericanodyssey.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/82cac825-d338-429f-81d1-72133c062211.jpg>)

Close up of damage



(<https://i1.wp.com/bkamericanodyssey.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/e0f12c39-bb65-4b8d-9f9d-b66e20f1a989.jpg>)

Outside plastic covering pulled away showing totally rotted wood

Someone told Bill that the water damage you find is always WAY WORSE than you think it is. By the time you find it, major damage has been done. Much easier to prevent than to repair!

Next the new floor had to be cut to fit.



(<https://i1.wp.com/bkamericanodyssey.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/6546f585-7878-49e1-ae0f-7843dbfff2f9.jpg>)

Placing the guide for a perfect cut



(<https://i1.wp.com/bkamericanodyssey.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/3aea1b18-880b-4dc5-a43a-cb1aa4154fb9.jpg>)

Using router to create 3" lap joint



(<https://i1.wp.com/bkamericanodyssey.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/51afef70-b0a1-4185-8543-050531b312ed.jpg>)

Lots of saw dust!



(<https://i1.wp.com/bkamericanodyssey.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/93cd815d-9175-4890-99c6-de4ed8c9cc89-1.jpg>)

Cutting the floor to size



(<https://i1.wp.com/bkamericanodyssey.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/a53e57d7-53e5-446f-ac5a-c141570e9609.jpg>)

Ready to install



(<https://i2.wp.com/bkamericanodyssey.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/beaaaf17-a377-4e08-928d-da4734467e66.jpg>)

2 coats of wood sealer protecting the outer edges from moisture



(<https://i2.wp.com/bkamericanodyssey.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/e562b0ad-56d4-4a98-92c4-f1856523a4a1.jpg>)

Applying wood glue (Gorilla construction adhesive)



(<https://i0.wp.com/bkamericanodyssey.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/4929346c-bf59-4f33-acc-6d14a1f69f12.jpg>)

Used a whole tube!



(<https://i0.wp.com/bkamericanodyssey.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/adf611f5-4515-47bd-be66-269ae255cecf.jpg>)

Now glue applied to lap on slide floor. Wood for bracing standing by.



(<https://i0.wp.com/bkamericanodyssey.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/61375d47-9990-486f-bfd8-8947ad358751.jpg>)

Installing outside perimeter screws while supporting the lap joint with 2 x 4s



(<https://i1.wp.com/bkamericanodyssey.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/8caa0d7e-2c12-4acf-baf8-e7768e87297e.jpg>)

1" Wood screws installed along inside lap joint to pull joint together.



(<https://i0.wp.com/bkamericanodyssey.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/64258eef-1d29-4278-a28f-77e977d7f82d.jpg>)

Inside closet

Next Bill cut the unused new floor into pieces. He installed them over the lap joint on the inside.



(<https://i2.wp.com/bkamericanodyssey.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/bcfae0d-b9d5-46d3-b67f-3e5e1a2d8f2d.jpg>)

These pieces were placed along the entire length using 2" wood screws. The floor is now stronger than new!



(<https://i0.wp.com/bkamericanodyssey.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/e38d9acd-a6ff-49d6-9363-6161fcedb248.jpg>)

Reattached vapor barrier and carpet. Note: the carpet is raised from additional wood added. This is not noticeable as the areas are under the bed or drawers.

Next we put the inside of the rig back together. This marks the end of the second day. Took about 8 hours.

Day 3: Finishing up!



(<https://i2.wp.com/bkamericanodyssey.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/39c8c8d8-962f-4798-873c-e7b3054fcc5c.jpg>)

Remove all old sealant from all trim pieces.



(<https://i2.wp.com/bkamericanodyssey.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/8685090c-c3b6-42a8-8f3d-dca25dcc13e5.jpg>)

Quite time consuming!



(<https://i1.wp.com/bkamericanodyssey.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/05ded69e-7d87-4833-9165-dea0e0d95985.jpg>)

This area is particularly important!



(<https://i0.wp.com/bkamericanodyssey.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/b18d20eb-227d-43e4-830e-834cf0f9cb78.jpg>)

New silicone sealant around all trim edges.



(<https://i2.wp.com/bkamericanodyssey.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/e3fe5693-b8f4-4003-9ffd-e91d979a129c.jpg>)

Smoothing edge while pushing silicone into edge. Also removing excess before it cures.



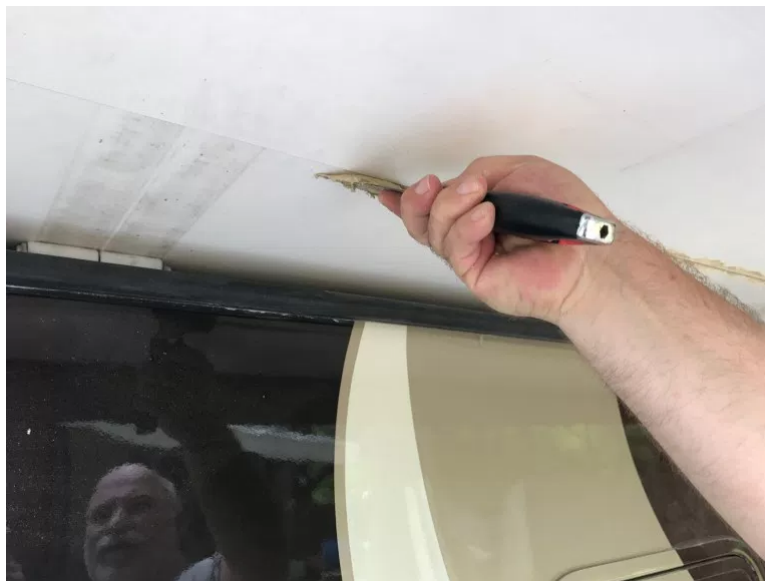
(<https://i2.wp.com/bkamericanodyssey.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/90e89a89-7584-4c1c-9edd-9b9383e8f76b.jpg>)

Installing edge trim.



(<https://i2.wp.com/bkamericanodyssey.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/2ecbc429-5ee7-4817-bfa2-3cdefcbd7d81.jpg>)

Added wood filler to fill small gap at lap joint



(<https://i2.wp.com/bkamericanodyssey.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/1da6d710-39c3-4b4f-8d62-4ecd0bf55595.jpg>)

Push putty into joint using painters tool.



(https://i0.wp.com/bkamericanodyssey.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/img_2338.jpg)

Used aluminum HVAC tape to cover putty. Tape is super thin so it will not catch on the slide rollers. It's also water proof!

This was the end of day 3 and the repair is finished! Day 3 was a short one at 3 1/2 hours. Total repair time was 14 hours. This includes about 2 hours of trying to raise the floor off the rollers to replace the whole floor. So the repair was done in about 12 hours. This doesn't count shopping for supplies and uncrating the floor. Bill also spent quite a bit of time formulating the repair plan and contingencies. According to Bill, if a person has enough skill to build a nice playhouse or garden shed from scratch, they would be skilled enough to tackle this repair.

Now for the back story:

Three years ago, Bill noticed the slide was dragging on the rug a bit, after we owned the rig for about 6 months. It appeared to be gradually getting worse. Since we were traveling to IN anyway, to the new Heartland Service Center for some minor warranty repairs, we decided to have them look at the slide. They didn't know why it was dragging as the slide was operating and properly adjusted. So, they simply raised the trim board to eliminate the interference. Bill now believes the slide floor was already starting to sink into the rollers, causing that interference. Had they researched to find the root cause then, it would have been fairly simple repair.

Fast forward 6 months and we are in FL having our first annual sealant inspection at LaMesa RV. An annual sealant inspection is required by Heartland to be performed at an authorized Service Center. Two RV techs spent an hour inspecting the roof and window seals and found no issues. Bill even received a compliment for the sealant job on the solar system components on the roof.

So, when Bill found the missing sealant on the slide in February of this year, he put the pieces together and determined the soft floor under the wheels was from water intruding where the sealant was missing. After many conversations, with different levels of management at Heartland, he finally got to the head of Warranty repairs, an actual decision maker! After reviewing the pictures Bill sent him and the fact that many people, other than us, people with proper training, missed the issue - the missing bit of silicone, they agreed to supply and ship the new floor to us free of charge! This is where Bill had hoped the negotiations would end up, as he was thought it was fair. He explained he takes partial responsibility for not finding the missing sealant himself sooner.

At the end of the day, the repair materials cost less than \$50. Bill spoke with several techs working in the campground, and was told the repair would cost between \$2500 - \$3500! Bill showed the repair to the more experienced tech and he was really impressed with how solid the repair was and agreed it was actually better than new! We felt lucky we were able to get it properly fixed for a small investment in money and time.

Hopefully that we be the first and last major issue we with our rig.

Lesson learned here?

INSPECT YOUR SEALANT OFTEN!!

This includes the roof, around all windows, and all trim! If you are not sure how to do it, find out or hire someone competent to do it for you. It is the least expensive option!

25 thoughts on "Bedroom Slide Floor Repair"