

Truckers' Gear Guide

▶ **Get the Gel Outta Here –**
Winterizing Your Truck

▶ **Do You Have a Clear View?**

▶ **BlackCanyon Outfitters**
A Trucker's Solution to On-The-Go Gear

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FAMILY OF BRANDS

Do You Have a Clear View?

By David Hollis
Editor, Truckers News

Thanks to Mary Anderson, your answer can be an emphatic “Yes,” whenever you get asked, “Do you have a clear view?” as you drive through rain or snow. And, thanks to continued improvements and technological advances, you’ll continue to see better than ever.

Anderson was visiting New York City in the early part of the last century and is said to have noticed how the driver of the trolley car she was on continually opening the window to clean off the snow so he could see out the front of the car. The Birmingham, Alabama resident was inspired to invent a device – a lever attached to a rubber blade – that a trolley driver could operate as they drove to wipe their window clean.

Thus, the windshield wiper was born. Anderson is said to never have earned any money from her invention, and it wasn’t until 1922 that Cadillac made windshield wipers standard equipment. But, over the years, wiper technology has changed and improved.

Today, truckers and their companies’ maintenance departments have plenty of wipers from which to choose. But, the most important aspect of windshield wiper maintenance is replacing blades before it’s too late.

Ideally, checking your truck’s windshield and wipers are basic – and important – parts of the pre-trip inspection process suggested by the Department of Transportation. The DOT says of your windshield:



- Check for damage and clean if dirty
- Check windshield wiper arms for proper spring tension
- Check wiper blades for any damage, “dead” rubber, and securement to arm

While there are – if done properly and comprehensively – lots of small things to check during your pretrip, making sure your wiper blades are in good shape is one of the most important. Imagine the consequences if a wiper blade goes bad while you’re 86 miles from nowhere on an interstate in the middle of a torrential downpour at 2 in the morning. No wipers. No travel. No good.

One of the ways to ensure you’re not on the phone with dispatch at 2:01 a.m. in that downpour explaining you’re going to be late for your delivery, is to have good wiper blades on your truck. Whatever the brand you or your maintenance staff chooses, experts say your best bet is to have flex beam blades installed. There are numerous advantages when compared to traditional blades, which may be less expensive, but might not deliver the kind of performance flex beam blades do.



Patented Flex Blade Technology
Creates even pressure distribution to give you continuous smooth operation in all weather conditions.



Here are five reasons why:

1. Flex beam blades have better aerodynamics, meaning they won’t get lifted from the windshield at highway speeds, or by high winds or in blizzard conditions.
2. Flex beam blades have fewer moving parts, so they have fewer chances to break down do to wear and tear. And, its parts are not exposed to the elements.
3. Flex beam blades are smaller and lighter.
4. Flex beam blades are manufactured to fit the contours of today’s truck windshields. That means they hug the glass evenly and deliver better coverage and cleaning.
5. Premium flex beam blades are also more durable, which is important if you’re trying to squeeze every penny out of your maintenance budget.

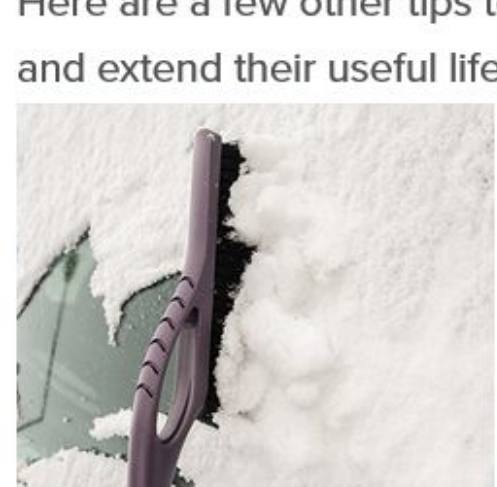
WeatherAce unveiled a full line of premium flex beam wiper blades this fall meant to keep your windshield not just free of rain, snow or other precipitation, but also keep it clean and free of streaks that can impair your view of the highway.

Their blades’ aerodynamic frame provides enhanced performance regardless of the conditions. Made of natural rubber, WeatherAce blades also provide smear-free wiping, important when you’re navigating through demanding conditions and locations.

Pre-installed universal adapters make for fast and easy installation, something that can be appreciated when replacement occurs while you’re on a deadline. WeatherAce’s stainless steel blade backing provides the kind of durability you need while on the road.

A member of the RoadPro Family of Brands, Weather Ace blades are available in 16”, 17”, 18”, 19”, 20”, 22” and 24” sizes. They come with a 30-day warranty. Look for them online and in travel centers.

Here are a few other tips to ensure your wipers deliver peak performance and extend their useful life:



- Cleaning your windshield frequently so your blades don’t have to work so hard
- Defrosting and scraping snow and ice from your windshield in the winter BEFORE you turn on your wipers
- Avoiding running your wipers on a dry windshield as when there is dust or pollen on it; wipers are meant to work with water, so use your truck’s windshield washers first

• Reposition your wipers off the windshield during the winter when you are stopped for any length of time, so they do not freeze in place

• Inspect and clean them with a wet cloth to remove road grit that could damage the rubber or scratch your windshield

Regardless of how good you are at maintaining your windshield wipers, blades do wear out. They do their job thousands of times when you are on the road in rain and snow. Some manufacturers suggest replacing blades every six months; others say a year.

Your best bet is to check them closely during every pretrip and replace them when you see they need it or be sure to mention it to your maintenance team when your truck is in for service. Replace them if they leave streaks, you can hear them chatter as they move across your windshield or you see the rubber is ripped, frayed or worn. (And, it doesn’t hurt to carry a spare pair in your truck if you need to make an impromptu repair on the road.)

After all, few things are as important as good visibility while on the road. **The American Optometric Association says 90% of all driving decisions are based on reacting to what you see.**

So, when asked, “Do you have a clear view?” you can say always say “Yes” if you have properly installed and maintained wiper blades. ■

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Dash Cams Can Save the Day

As a trucker you spend countless hours on the road and have probably seen your share of careless drivers. With the ever-increasing traffic and roads filled with more and more drivers being distracted by in-vehicle technology, dash cams have become one of the most important things to have on your truck.



Of course, the most important reason to have a dash cam in your truck is in the event of an accident you have proof of the incident and who was at fault. Without this footage the other driver can try to claim that you caused the accident even if you did not and you could be liable for all the damages and injuries unless you have the captured footage from the

accident.

Dash cams can also be used to report a careless driver that is endangering others on the road. As a professional truck driver who makes the road his office, you are well versed in the rules of the road and can also easily identify if another driver is placing others in jeopardy. Having the dash cam footage as evidence can prove their carelessness and assist in getting them off the road or presented with the proper fines.

Having your dash cam on and recording even when you are asleep in your truck or away from your vehicle is also a good practice. If you return to your truck and there is a dent on your fender you can view the footage to see what happened. Your camera can also capture those who might try to vandalize your truck or try to break in.



While we may all think it won't happen – dash cams can also assist in cases of potential insurance fraud. There are other drivers out there that purposely cause an accident and then try to blame the other driver in order to receive insurance money. They can fake an injury claiming it was sustained in the accident and then say you are responsible for the medical costs. Dash cams can prove the accident was not your fault as well as help to stop the person that committed the fraud from doing this to anyone else.



If you train other drivers, you maybe also find a dash cam useful to record what the trainee sees behind the wheel and then review with them after each training session to point out improvements or what they did well.

Cobra



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RAND McNALLY



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Garmin, Rand McNally and Cobra are a few brands that are available in most travel centers and offer a variety of features and pricing options. Many offer time and location tracking with geo tags that sync with your GPS providing information on when and where the footage occurred. Built-in microphones are great to have if you train other drivers or to record the conversation with law enforcement or the other driver involved in an accident. However, you will need to alert the person if you are recording them as many states have laws in place to protect the recording of individuals without their knowledge. Most models do include a memory card but make sure you check what type before purchase and if it is easily replaceable as you will often be asked to hand over the memory card to law enforcement. Various mounting options are also available – some models are small enough to be mounted on your windshield but make sure the one you select works for you and does not obstruct your view. Before you purchase make sure to do a bit of research on the camera that will work best for your needs.

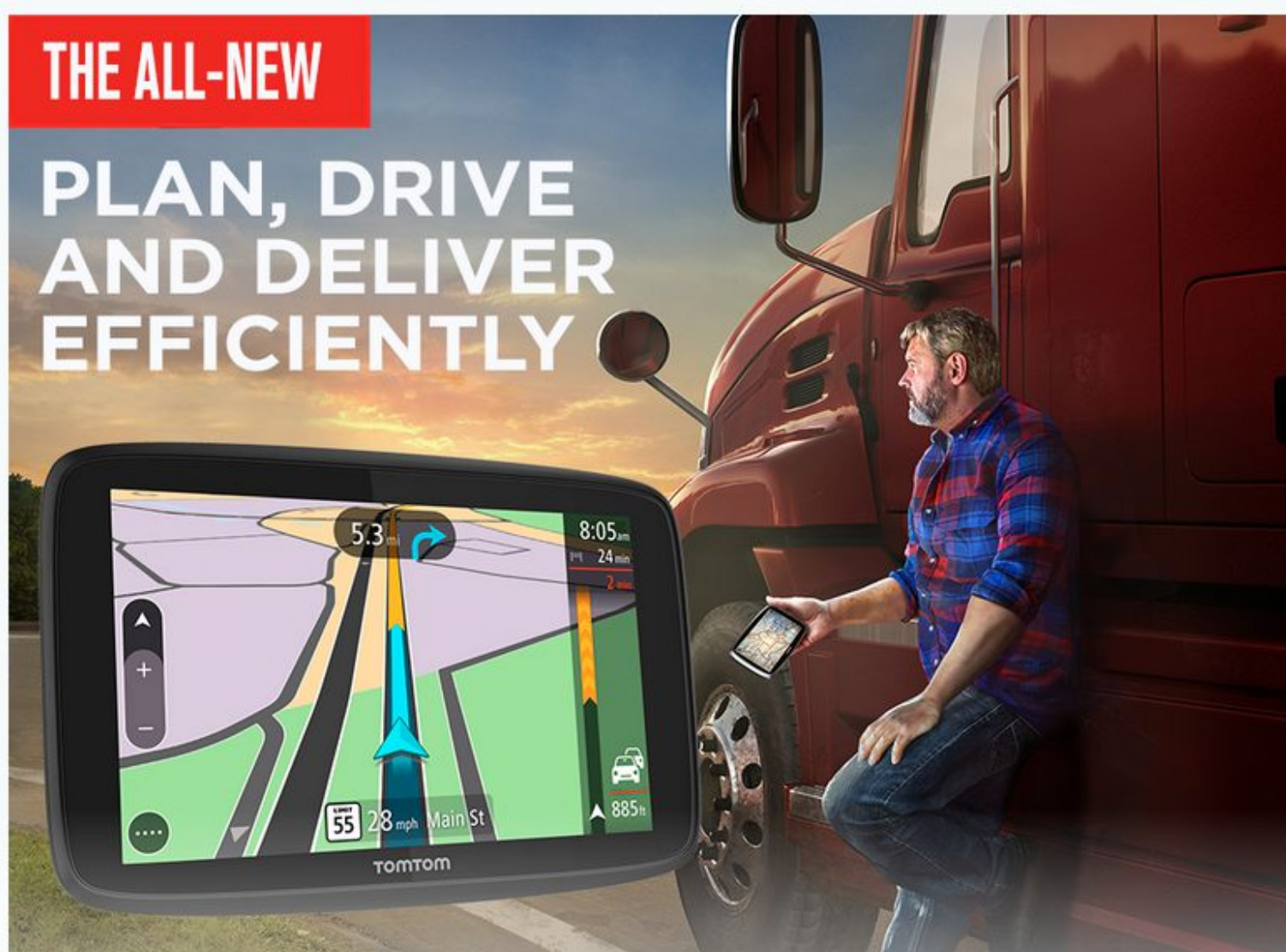
You will find having a dash cam on board can certainly save the day! ■

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BlackCanyon Outfitters

A Trucker's Solution to On-The-Go Gear

By Kim McDonnell

When truckers (and others who spend a lot of time outdoors and on the go) talk about the clothing and equipment they like, you hear the same ideas time and again. Road warriors want products that are durable and rugged, comfortable and reliable, but still deliver sharp looks in outdoor style. Getting real value for the dollar – well, that counts, too.

One top source for gear that checks all the boxes is BlackCanyon Outfitters. Their lineup includes winter wear to set you up right for the coming cold months, belts and wallets that are good-looking and hard-wearing, plus safety equipment that delivers real protection when and where you need it. Here are some of the great BlackCanyon products now available at travel centers across the country.



Winter Wear

Baby, it's cold outside. But keeping you warm is just part of what great winter clothes do. BlackCanyon Outfitters jackets are cut for comfort and range of motion, along with resilient wearing properties and standout good looks. Quilted, thermal or fleece linings give the best in breathable warmth. You'll find the same care and quality in their shirts and vests, and in BlackCanyon Outfitters headgear, with standard and high-visibility options in knit caps, face masks, balaclavas and earflap trooper models. Cozy thermal socks and gloves made with the real-world demands of work in mind (such as texting gloves and ski types) round out the line.



Belts and Wallets

Any way you choose to show the world who you are, leather goods and other accessories from BlackCanyon Outfitters give you what you're after. There's a wide range of leather wallets to pick from – bifolds and trifolds with bold deer or eagle embossing, in black or brown leather (or flag decoration, U.S. or Canadian, if you want to let your colors fly). Plenty of other personalizing details, too, from croc-style leather to money clips to RFID shielding capability for extra security. BlackCanyon Outfitters' black and brown leather belts prove what a great look you get from simple, classic style.



Safety Gear

Hard hats, glasses, gloves, pants, shirts and vests – BlackCanyon Outfitters safety wear delivers serious solutions for safety needs from head to toe. Go with the Omega II Full-Brim Ratchet hat for max all-around head coverage, or the Americana 4-safety hat, right for lots of demanding situations. (Where you don't need a hard hat, choose a ball cap with reflective trim so you'll always be seen.) High visibility shirts, vests and pants are available in styles made right for the work you're doing. Gloves in the BlackCanyon Outfitters line combine high visibility with super dexterity. Also available are baseline protective goods like safety glasses, chinstraps and earplugs.

From Head to Toe...
A Solution for Every Need

SAFETY SOLVED



See more on all these great products at: <https://www.roadprobrands.com/products?GroupID=&PageNum=2&Brand=BlackCanyon+Outfitters> . ■

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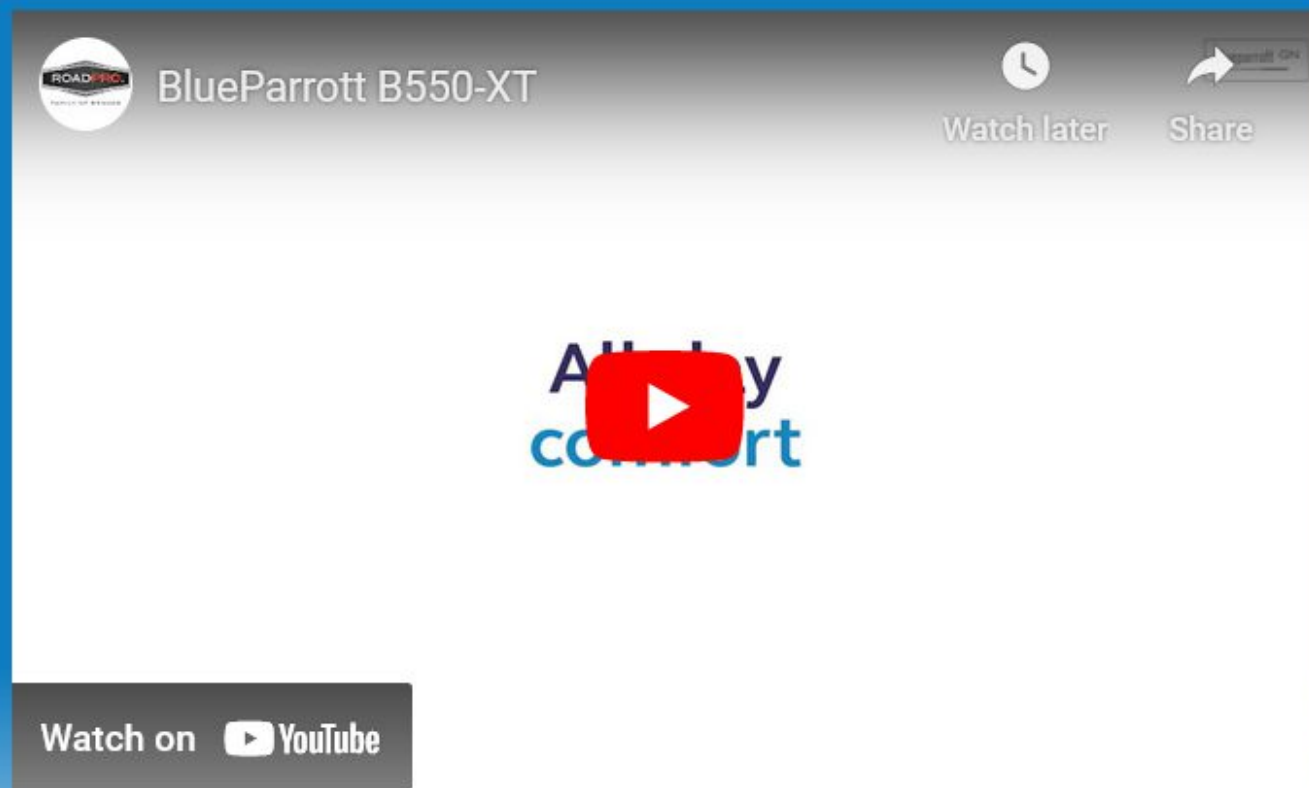


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Holiday Cooking with RoadPro

By Sierra Sugar

I always joke that in my family every celebration from birth to death is celebrated in the kitchen. Like music, food has a way from invoking nostalgia and comfort. But can you cook a holiday meal in your semi-truck? I'm here to tell you thanks to RoadPro's line of 12-volt cooking appliances, it absolutely can be done. With a little bit of planning and prep you can enjoy your favorite holiday meal even if you aren't home for the holiday.



With the variety of RoadPro 12-volt cooking appliances it's easy to prepare a familiar comfort meal. Below you can see some pictures of a full Thanksgiving dinner cooked in the new RoadPro 12-volt Roaster. That's right, I cooked a full Thanksgiving dinner for two with nothing

more than a 12-volt appliance. In years past, I've cooked many holiday meals in their 12-volt "lunchbox" oven and 12-volt crockpot. With a little time, patience, and creativity you can enjoy a delicious "home-cooked" holiday meal from the comfort of your truck. Who says being away from home for the holidays can't be anything but delicious!

Thanksgiving Dinner in the RoadPro 12-volt Roaster

- Turkey Breast wraps with Stuffing
- Green Beans
- Apple Crisp
- Cranberry Sauce or Mustard (made separately in a RoadPro 12-volt crockpot, lunchbox oven, or skillet)



Using heavy duty aluminum foil create individual baking trays. One large one for the turkey and stuffing, and two smaller ones for the green beans and apple crisp. Think one larger rectangle and two smaller squares.

The Main Meal (Turkey and Stuffing)

Empty a boxed stuffing mix into a medium size bowl or plastic container. Mix the stuffing with the recommended amount of water and butter. You can add in onions, peppers, nuts, eggs, fruit, or bacon if you wish. For better cooking and flavor limit add ins to one or two items. Set aside to use for stuffing the turkey.

If you don't have or don't want to use a boxed stuffing mix, you can use dried stale bread cut into cubes or croutons. Use powdered seasonings like onion, garlic, salt, pepper, oregano, and celery seed to season your stuffing if you decide to use regular stale bread. You may also want to use a Tablespoon or two less of the water since when it cooks in the roaster the juices from the turkey create steam and add to the overall moisture of the meal.

For the turkey I bought turkey breast slices. It is turkey breast sliced thick like a ham steak. You can usually find these in the meat department. It is uncooked turkey slices, not cooked lunch meat. Though honestly, you could use several layers of turkey lunch meat/deli slices if that is all you are able to find. Just adjust your cooking times.



Season the turkey on both sides. Place one heaping spoonful of stuffing in the center of one slice of turkey. Roll up the turkey slice or fold the edges in like a burrito, (which ever you prefer) and secure with a toothpick. Place in the large foil baking tray inside the roaster. You can fill in any extra space around the turkey wraps with extra stuffing. Any that doesn't fit, you can cook by itself in the RoadPro crockpot or lunchbox, or even your microwave.

The Sides (Green Beans)

If using canned green beans, drain off most of the water, season and add into one of the smaller foil baking trays in the roaster. If using fresh green beans rinse, snap, season and add to the foil square with a little water or broth. Don't like green beans? No problem. Substitute another vegetable of your choice. Or if veggies aren't your thing, you can slice regular baking potatoes or sweet potatoes into coins medallions, season, and add a little butter.

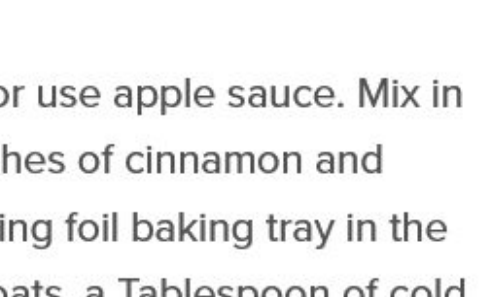


A Sweet Ending (Apple Crisp)

I made an easy apple crisp for dessert since I'm not a big fan of pumpkin pie. You can just as easily make a pumpkin crisp or a sweet potato casserole. Just follow the same basic recipe for those desserts, but in smaller portions. The key here is keeping things simple while still maintaining good flavor. Being away from home during the holidays is already stressful enough, don't make it more stressful by trying complicated recipes.

For the apple crisp, peel, core, and dice an apple or use apple sauce. Mix in a spoonful of brown sugar or honey and a few dashes of cinnamon and nutmeg (nutmeg optional). Place in the last remaining foil baking tray in the roaster. In a bowl or cup mix in a handful of quick oats, a Tablespoon of cold butter cut into pieces, a spoonful of flour, a spoonful of brown sugar, and a few dashes of cinnamon and nutmeg. Using a fork or your fingers quickly mix until it resembles a course ground meal texture. Sprinkle on top of the apples.

Secure lid on the RoadPro 12-volt roaster, plug it in, turn it on, and let bake for about an hour or until a cooking thermometer reads 165° when stuck inside the center of one of the turkey wraps. The turkey slices are thinner obviously than a full turkey breast and will therefore cook faster. If you leave them in too long, they will burn and stick to the bottom.



Once cooked you can top with store bought gravy and cranberry sauce or use the 12-volt lunchbox or crock pot to make your own.

The Gravy

To make your own, brown a few pieces of the sliced turkey (set aside prior to cooking) in some butter. Add a spoonful of flour, stirring for a few minutes until the flour starts to turn a light golden color then add a cup of water. Cook the gravy for several minutes, stirring frequently. You are looking for that yummy golden-brown color.

Getting Saucy

Making your own cranberry sauce is easy with dried cranberries (Craisins), and it tastes delicious. This is from someone who doesn't normally like cranberry sauce. Add a half a cup of dried cranberries and a half cup of water to one of your 12-volt cooking appliances. Squeeze in a little lemon juice and a pinch of lemon zest if you have a real lemon on hand and let soak while the cooker heats up. Once the cranberries are plump, add a spoonful or two of sugar (or honey, amount dependent upon how sweet you like it), a pinch of salt, and even a spoonful of orange juice if you have it on hand. Cook for 20 minutes or so. To thicken add a spoon of cornstarch to a little bit of water, stir until dissolved then add to the cranberry sauce and let cook until thickened. If you like a little more tang to your cranberries you can add in a good squeeze of Dijon mustard to make a delicious cranberry mustard great for leftover turkey sandwiches! ■

**Almost everything I used here can be found at a decent truck stop except for the sliced Turkey, which I got at Walmart. If you want to use turkey lunch meat you can often find that at a truck stop too.*

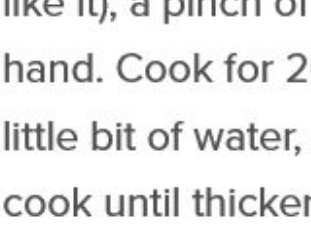
***I've purposely not used traditional measurements for ingredients as not everyone has the desire or space to carry a bunch of measuring cups and spoons in their truck. A big spoonful is about a Tablespoon. Most of the seasonings and spices are "to taste" which is different for everyone.*

Sierra Sugar is a blogger and writer with a passion for trucking, travel, adventure, tiny living, and cooking. Involved in the trucking industry for nearly four years, she has experienced living on the truck 24/7 for 3 of those years with her husband, Allen Wilcher, a 30-year veteran truck driver who currently hauls for the entertainment industry. For more on Sierra visit her website or follow her on Facebook or Twitter

Website: <http://www.SweetLifeOfSierraSugar>

Facebook: [Facebook.com/SierraSugar](https://www.facebook.com/SierraSugar)

Twitter: @SierraSugar



Cooking with RoadPro

ROADPRO® MEATLOAF

INGREDIENTS

- 1 lb beef
- 3 oz. stuffing mix
- 1 egg
- ¼ cup parmesan cheese
- ¼ cup onion, chopped
- ½ green pepper, chopped
- ¼ cup ketchup
- ¼ cup water
- Dash of parsley (optional)

DIRECTIONS

1. Add all ingredients to mixing bowl and combine.
2. Add ¼ cup water to the bottom of loaf pan.
3. Place formed meatloaf into loaf pan.
4. Place pan into [RoadPro Portable Stove](#).
5. Bake for 2 hours.
6. Carefully remove from stove.
7. Slice and serve.



EGG MUFFINS

ROADPRO FAMILY OF BRANDS RECIPE
MADE FOR THE ROADPRO PORTABLE STOVE

INGREDIENTS

- 2 eggs
- 2 slices of pre-cooked bacon, chopped
- 1 tsp. shredded cheese
- 1/8 tsp. Mrs. Dash®
- Fresh spinach, chopped
- Broccoli, chopped fine
- Onion, sliced thin
- Bell pepper, chopped
- Jalapeno
- Dash of salt
- Dash of pepper

DIRECTIONS

1. Coat loaf pan with cooking spray.
2. Mix egg with Mrs. Dash, salt and pepper. Set aside.
3. Add vegetables, meat and cheese to pan.
4. Pour eggs into pan, over veggies.
5. Place into [RoadPro Portable Stove](#).
6. Bake for 1 hour, or until toothpick comes out clean.
7. Serve and enjoy.

Note: Vegetables, meat and seasonings can be adjusted as preferred.

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One exciting new look, two superior new products, three unbeatable heroes to always keep you moving. Reach for Howes and never settle for less than the absolute best.

Get the Gel Outta Here

Winterizing Your Truck

Being prepared is something today's truckers pride themselves on. From pre-trip planning to finding alternate routes to ensuring safety items are on board and perhaps most importantly, always having a plan for inclement weather. Add in the increasing pressure to be on-time and minimize delays due to driver shortages and the new ELD Mandates and you'll understand the importance of planning ahead.



There are a multitude of weather scenarios that can effect a driver's ability to stay on the road and keep earning. In the beginning of the winter season, when storms and temperature drops can hit as early as October, it's important to have a solution for those unforeseen weather occurrences. Just looking at Billings, Montana last year, temperatures hit the freezing mark

October 3rd and on the 14th that month, 28 degrees was the high! With today's sensitive diesel, a sudden drop can result in gelled fuel lines which means truckers could get sidelined if they're not prepared.

There are two "must have" products to consider as you build a winter tool kit, an anti-gel to prevent gelling and an emergency rescue product to de-gel you in the event of unforeseen weather or extreme circumstances. With that in mind, here are some considerations to keep in mind when considering which products to use.

Ease of Use – Look for products that are *pour and go* and that don't require fuel filter replacement or mixing. Remember you won't want to be doing a lot of work if you're gelled up on the side of the road – when its freezing cold, simple is best.

Alcohol Free – Alcohol is an abrasive solvent and though it may solve the problem of gelled fuel, it may be doing so at the cost of damaged fuel injectors and other costly diesel fuel systems.

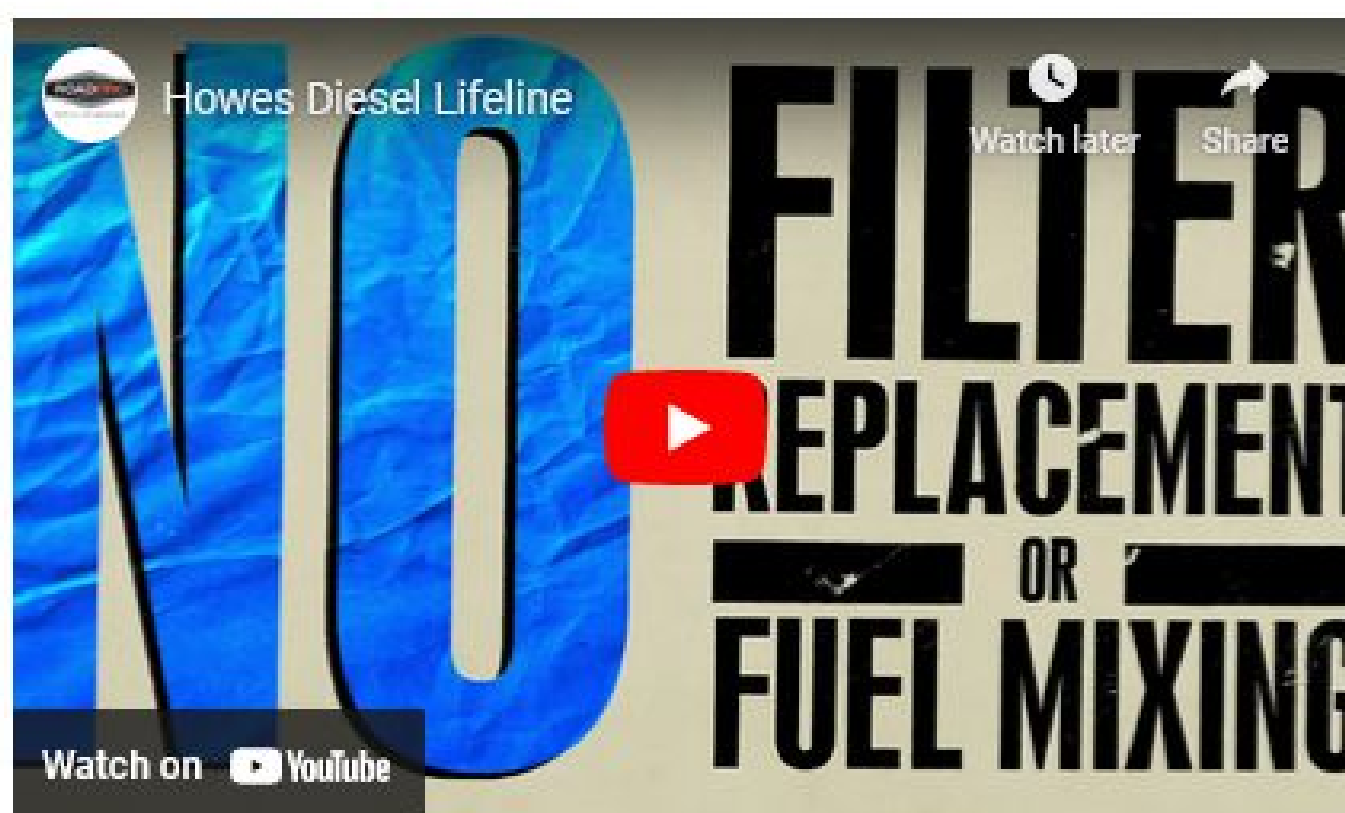
Fast Acting – Products that work best, work fast. Solving the gelling problem is something you want to get done quickly. Make sure the products you use get you back on the road fast...especially when it's below 0!

Among the many products available, two available in travel centers throughout the country are **Howes Diesel Treat and Diesel Lifeline**. **Diesel Treat**, the market leading diesel anti-gel, has been a proven, effective product for generations and is loaded with performance enhancing elements to complement its anti-gelling abilities. Adding vital lubricity, preventing injector deposits and removing water, Diesel Treat is the best treatment available for solving problems created by today's ULSD fuel.



Crystal clear and unlike harmful alcohol based products, **Diesel Lifeline** has been designed to be used at 100% concentration in the fuel filter without harming the engine in any way and has the same combustion properties of diesel fuel, with a nearly identical flashpoint. This means no engine knocking, no corrosion to engine components or fuel lines, and clean emissions identical to that of fuel.

The only 100% alcohol-free rescue product on the market, Diesel Lifeline eliminates the need for mixing with diesel and requires no fuel filter changing, making it an easier and more cost effective solution. The result of seven years of engineering and development, Diesel Lifeline re-liquefies gelled fuel, de-ices frozen fuel filters and prevents them from re-icing and is also fast acting, in most cases taking just 15 minutes to take effect.



So stay warm this winter and be prepared for whatever Mother Nature has in store for you. ■



Smart CB Radio with Connected Communication

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ClearDryve™ 200

Premium noise-cancelling, 2-in-1 headphones

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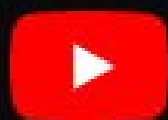
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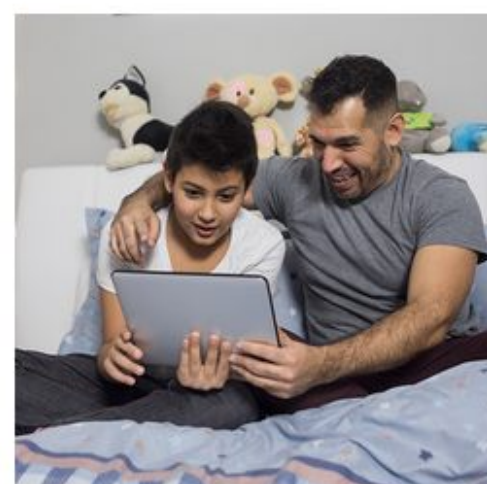
Holiday Cheer

Staying Positive While Out on the Road

By Kim McDonnell

While many of us have time off during the holiday season we all know that there are many jobs that are not afforded the same, including the trucking industry. Freight must move, and goods still need to be delivered. So, how do you stay positive when you are on the road over the Holiday season – especially Christmas Day? We reached out to a few of our friends who are involved in the trucking industry to find out.

“We all rely on the other brothers and sisters we have on the road,” said Robert Greene, who has driven for over 33 years. “Being able to reach out to them and just talk or joke around makes being out here during the holidays a bit more bearable.” Robert also takes a little piece of home with him on each trip such as a blanket or photo. He also utilizes Facetime so he can watch the holiday celebrations and communicate with his family members who are there.



Take advantage of technology, you don't have to settle for just a phone call with family or friends. Using Facetime, Facebook or Skype, for example, can put you right at the holiday table.

Carolyn O'Byrne, life coach and wife of a trucker offered up this advice, “Know that working through the holidays provides support for you family,” she commented, “this is a huge gift of contribution to them.” She also suggested doing something special that makes you feel that you have participated in the holiday. “Think of some sort of surprise that you send to the family while you are away or leave something hidden at home before you leave that they can find on the holiday,” said O'Byrne, “Or start planning gift ideas early so that you have time to implement them.”

As far as being away from the traditional meal – many drivers plan their own traditions while on the road.

“Our tradition has always been to try to seek out a Cracker Barrel,” said Tamera Sturgis. “It always has the smell of home cooking, the fireplace going, people playing checkers and Christmas decorations everywhere.” She also commented that everyone is always happy and in a good mood so when they can't be home it's the place that they rely on to get in the Holiday spirit.

Allen and Sierra Wilcher are usually on the road during the holiday season. “To make Christmas special we decorate the outside of the truck with Christmas lights,” said Sierra, “I also have used wrapping paper and bows and turned the cabinets inside the truck into presents.” She also suggested hanging lights inside the truck to make it more festive. If you have a power inverter in your truck you can get the kind that plug in, but if not, there is a large selection of battery-operated options.

The Wilcher's find joy in driving at night so they could have their Christmas lights on. They love to see the children's faces light up as they pass the cars. When driving at night they also can experience the lights on all the houses and buildings during the Christmas season.



“I have been out on the road over the holidays a few times,” said Idella Hansen, who has been in trucking for over 50 years, “especially at Thanksgiving so the ‘guys’ could go hunting.” Idella continued with, “I have often been invited to a few homes of friends who may have been in the area that I had stopped but always declined, but that just left me lonely and sad so this year I accepted an invitation.” Idella said that it turned out to be a great day with good food and great company. She recommended to swallow your pride and accept the personal invitations that may come along. It will not only make you happy but your host as well.

Michelle Scolari offered up this advice, “When my children were younger, I took vacation time so that I could be home for the holidays,” she said. “Now that they are grown, I offer to be out there so other drivers can be home with their young families.” This makes Michelle's holidays special knowing that by her working another driver's child can have their ‘Daddy’ home.

Another driver took a different take on the Holiday season. Kari Tibbett was not on the road last year during Thanksgiving so her and her family prepared and packaged individual meals and then took them to the local truck stop and gave them away to drivers. The drivers were so excited to have a home-cooked Thanksgiving dinner. “It was so enlightening and so fun as I had my whole family involved,” said Tibbett.

Several drivers we spoke to also make sure to treat themselves while on the road – like buying a nice meal at a nearby restaurant or staying in a hotel for the evening. Others play holiday music or buy themselves a gift to celebrate.

Keep in mind you are not the only driver on the road or at a truck stop. Many drivers we heard from make a special point to get out of the cab to either talk to a fellow driver or even share a meal. Don't forget the travel center employees – thank them as they are working to serve you instead of being with their families.

Several travel centers will go out of their way this time of year to make drivers feel welcome during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. Some will offer the traditional holiday dinner, and many will be able to tell you in advance if they plan a special meal or event. Others might offer a discount on your meal or free coffee.



So, if you can't be home for the holidays – find a way to make your own joy or traditions while out on the road and know that there are others out there that appreciate what you do so they can enjoy the holidays at home. ■

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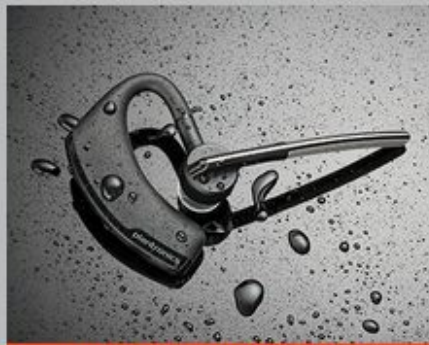
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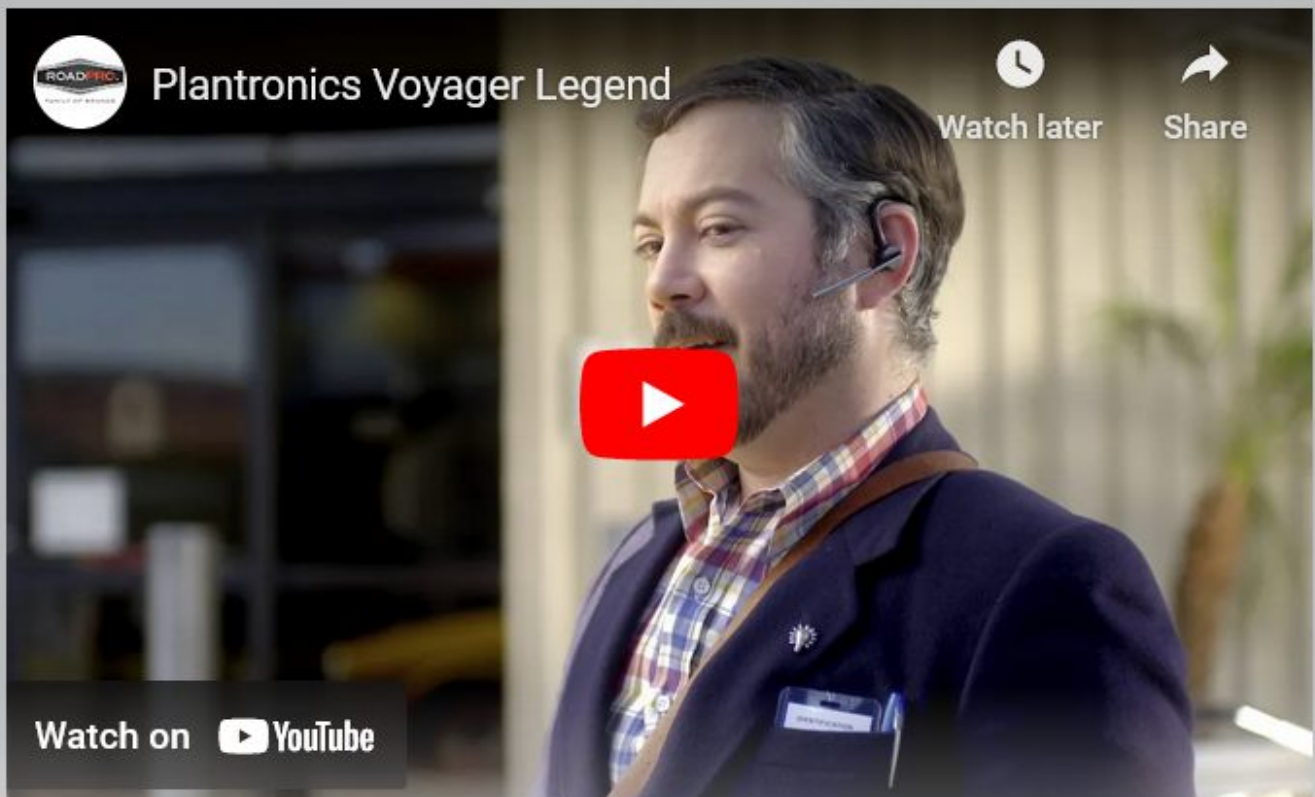
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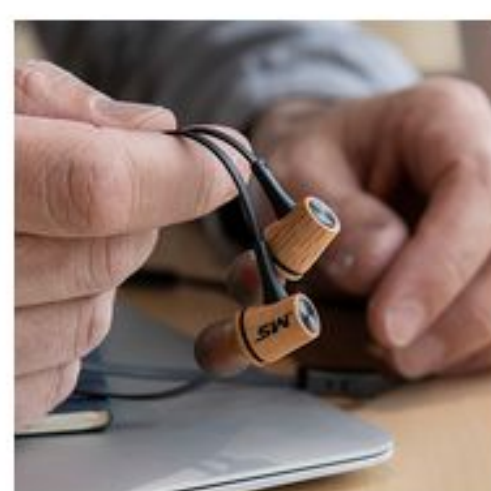
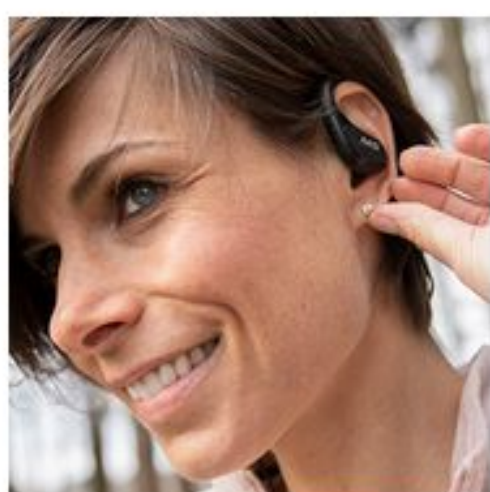
Holiday Shopping Made Easy Thank You Travel Centers!

By Derek Lehman

Director of Channel and Shopper Marketing for RoadPro Brands

When most of your time is spent behind the wheel of your truck you may think that finding the time and a place that will offer a great selection of gifts to complete your holiday shopping will be difficult. Fear not as travel centers across the country will showcase some of the top names in toys, entertainment and gift items that will sure to be a hit with whoever you are shopping for.

Once again, Mobile Tech will be at the top of most everyone's list and travel centers are prepared with a great line up of technology including MobileSpec's latest innovation in audio and charging that include traditional and Bluetooth® earbuds, neckbands and Qi wireless charging pads and mounts.



A variety of new earbuds offer a selection of cutting-edge designs, including a fashionable wood-grain style that provide superior sound. Various models include an inline microphone to allow you to seamlessly switch between music and talking. Two new neckband-style earbuds provide Bluetooth wireless technology, enhanced sound and a compact and

comfortable design.

MobileSpec will also offer options in wireless Qi-charging that allow for an easy and intuitive charging experience. They include a selection of Qi-charging pads featuring non-slip rubberized coating and 10W Fast Charge® and a wireless Qi-charge dash mount with an automatic smart touch sensor. You will also find a complete offering of charge and sync cables that provide up to three times the power when using USB-C™ power adapters or USB power delivery chargers.



If you want to be the hero of the house, make sure to check out this season's hottest toys offered by RoadPro Family of Brands Treasure Cove program. Included are offerings from Hasbro® and Mattel® that feature items from upcoming movie releases like Toy Story 4 and Frozen. Rounding out the line will be other fun assortments from Play-Doh® and Barbie® as

well as a full line of plush and novelty items.

This season, new premium men's grooming items from Duke Cannon®, Union Razors™ and Barbasol® will offer unique gifts at travel centers nationwide. From body and skin care items to a variety of shaving selections including electric or manual razors, shave kits and more this new line will provide a complete solution for men's grooming.



Rounding out our list are items from BlackCanyon Outfitters that include an all new line of leather embossed wallets equipped with RFID protection and offered in various styles. There is also a complete line of apparel that includes a great selection of winter gloves and hats including the ever-popular trooper hat.

So, don't stress this holiday season when it comes to finding that perfect gift. Travel centers have you covered!



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Pro Driver Tip



Winterizing Your Truck



Lamar is a member of the RoadPro Pro Driver Council and the owner of Buckwalter Trucking LLC, a family run business and has been involved in trucking for over 20 years. Currently he owns two trucks, with one being a custom Kenworth T660 which is often seen at many truck shows. He operates in all 48 states and hauls fresh and frozen foods. He is also an active member of the fire department and sponsors the Jason Johnson Racing, World of Outlaws Sprint Car.

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