

## Operator's Manual

# WF-8500 Series Power Centers

WF-8540 | WF-8550 | WF-8560

(The Power Center model number is located on the door assembly label)



## THE HEARTBEAT OF TODAY'S RVs

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### **!WARNING!**

Risk of Electrical Shock. Disconnect or isolate all power supplies before making electrical connections. More than one disconnection or isolation may be required to completely de-energize equipment. Contact with components carrying hazardous voltage can cause electric shock and may result in severe personal injury or death.

### **!IMPORTANT!**

All wiring must conform to local, national, and regional regulations. Use copper conductors only for all wire connections. Do not exceed the electrical ratings for the WF-8500 or the equipment connected to it.

### **!CAUTION!**

This product should be installed by an experienced technician. CAUTION and care must be taken when servicing this equipment. To prevent severe shock or electrocution, consult your servicing dealer.

### **!WARNING!**

This unit employs components that can produce arcs or sparks. To prevent fire or explosion, do not install in compartments containing batteries or flammable materials (LP gas). This product is NOT ignition protected.

### **!CAUTION!**

To prevent fire, do not cover or obstruct front cover ventilation openings. For continued protection against risk of fire or electric shock, replace faulty DC fuses and AC breakers with ones of the same type and ratings as are installed.

### **!CAUTION!**

When using a battery with the WF-8500 Series, follow battery maintenance procedures. Check the fluid level in any battery connected to RV charging system on a monthly basis.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### WF-8500 Series Safety Features

#### **Reverse-Polarity Battery Protection**

The WF-8500 Series Power Centers will charge the 12 volt House battery if installed. A battery does not have to be installed for WF-8500 Series converter operation. When a battery is installed, two reverse-polarity fuses are installed to protect the converter circuitry. The fuses are located along the bottom edge of the DC fuse board near the VCC+ lug. Refer to Figure 1 on the following page. This feature prevents permanent damage to the converter from a battery connected into the circuit backwards. Blown polarity fuses are indicated by an illuminated Red LED near the lugs. In addition to protecting the converter section, the reverse-polarity fuses are the main connection between the converter and the DC fuse board.





### Blown Fuse Indicators on DC fuse Board

The DC Fuse Board has individual blown fuse indicators as standard equipment. Each of the 13 DC fuse circuits feature a Red LED to indicate a blown fuse. If one of the circuits draws more current than the rating of the fuse, the fuse will blow. When this occurs, the Red LED for that circuit will illuminate. Replace the blown fuse with a known good fuse of the same rating. **NOTE:** If the replacement fuse blows again, check that circuit for a short or overload condition.

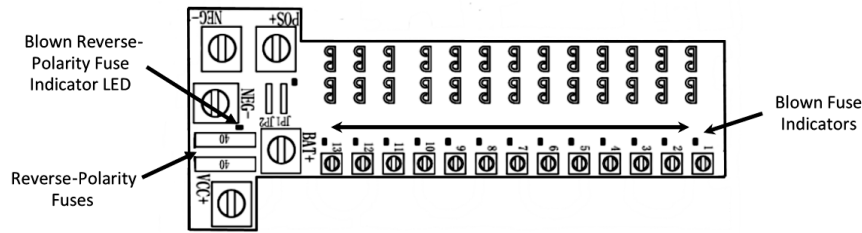


Figure 1

### Automatic Cooling Fan

The cooling fan in the WF-8500 Series Power Center is incremental and is controlled by the current drawn out of the converter to the applied load. The on-board microprocessor increases fan speed as the total load increases and decreases fan speed as the load decreases. Unlike traditional temperature-controlled fans, the load-controlled fan provides better component cooling by avoiding temperature spikes which can lead to premature component failure.

### AC Voltage Input Indicators

The WF-8500 Series Power Centers have built-in indication of the incoming AC voltage. Three LEDs give at-a-glance status of Low, Normal or High voltage. See Figure 2 below. If the incoming voltage is within the normal operating range of 105 to 130 VAC, the Green LED will be illuminated. However, if the incoming voltage is less than 105 VAC, the Yellow LED will illuminate. If the incoming voltage is greater than 130 VAC, the Red LED will illuminate. If either the Red or Yellow LED is illuminated, shut down the WF-8500 Series Power Center and investigate the cause of the problem.

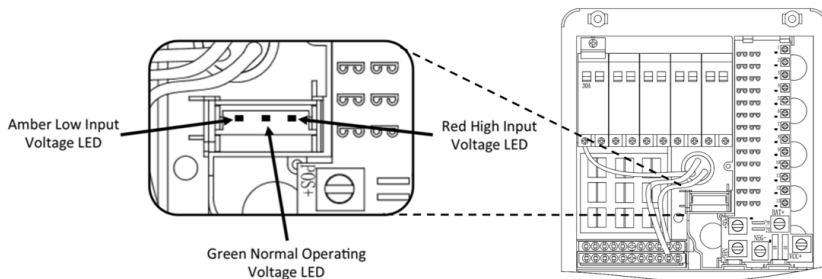


Figure 2



### Over-Temperature Protection

If the internal temperature of the converter exceeds a critical point, it will shut down. This protects the unit from excessive heat that may damage sensitive components. The unit will restart once the temperature inside has dropped.

### Electronic Current Limiting

In the event that the output current exceeds the maximum rating for the WF-8500 Series converter the output current will remain constant but the output voltage will begin to drop. If this occurs, the unit will recover once loads are reduced.

### Short-Circuit Protection

Should a short circuit occur in the RV, the WF-8500 Series converter will drop the voltage output to zero volts. If the short-circuit condition is removed and no other fault conditions are detected, the converter will resume normal operation. However, short-circuit conditions are **dangerous**, and the RV will require inspection by a qualified service technician.

## CIRCUIT PROTECTION

### WF-8500 Series Fuses and Breakers

#### DC Fuses (12 Volts)

The DC fuse board has spaces for thirteen (13) DC circuits. This includes three 30 Amp circuits (positions 11, 12 and 13) which may be used for any load requiring up to 30 Amps of current draw (Example: Slide-Outs). These three (3) circuits have a maximum rating of 30 Amps. The remaining ten (10) circuits have a maximum 20 Amp rating. The circuit fuses and the Reverse Battery Protection fuses should be replaced with ATC or ATO automotive type fuses such as:

- Littelfuse type 257
- Bussmann type ATC

#### AC Circuit Breakers (120/240 Volts)

The AC Breaker side of the WF-8500 Series Power Center is located on the upper left side. The WF-8500 Series accepts standard residential breakers. A total of 10 breakers can be installed: one 30 Amp Main breaker and up to a maximum of nine AC Branch circuits when using duplex breakers. A list of factory tested and approved breakers follows.

#### UL-Listed Main Circuit Breakers, rated for 120 V, maximum 30 A

The following breakers have been factory tested and approved for use as 30 Amp Main breakers in the WF-8500 Series:

Manufacturer	Model/Cat. No./Type
Cutler Hammer	Type BR and C
Thomas Betts	Type TB or TBBD
ITE/Siemens	Type QP or QT
Square D	Type HOM or HOMT
Murray	Type MP-T or MH-T
General Electric	Type THQL



### UL-Listed Branch Circuit Breakers, rated for 120 V, maximum 20 A

The following breakers have been factory tested and approved for use as Branch breakers in the WF-8500 Series:

Manufacturer	Model/Cat. No./Type
Cutler Hammer	Type BR and C, Type BRD, BD and A
Thomas Betts	Type TB or TBBD
ITE/Siemens	Type QP or QT
Square D	Type HOM or HOMT
Murray	Type MP-T or MH-T
General Electric	Type THQL

When replacing any of the installed circuit breakers, the replacement should be of the same manufacturer, type designation, and equal or greater interrupting rating, not to exceed 30 A. The "Short-Circuit-Current" rating for the breaker should be 10,000 Amps.

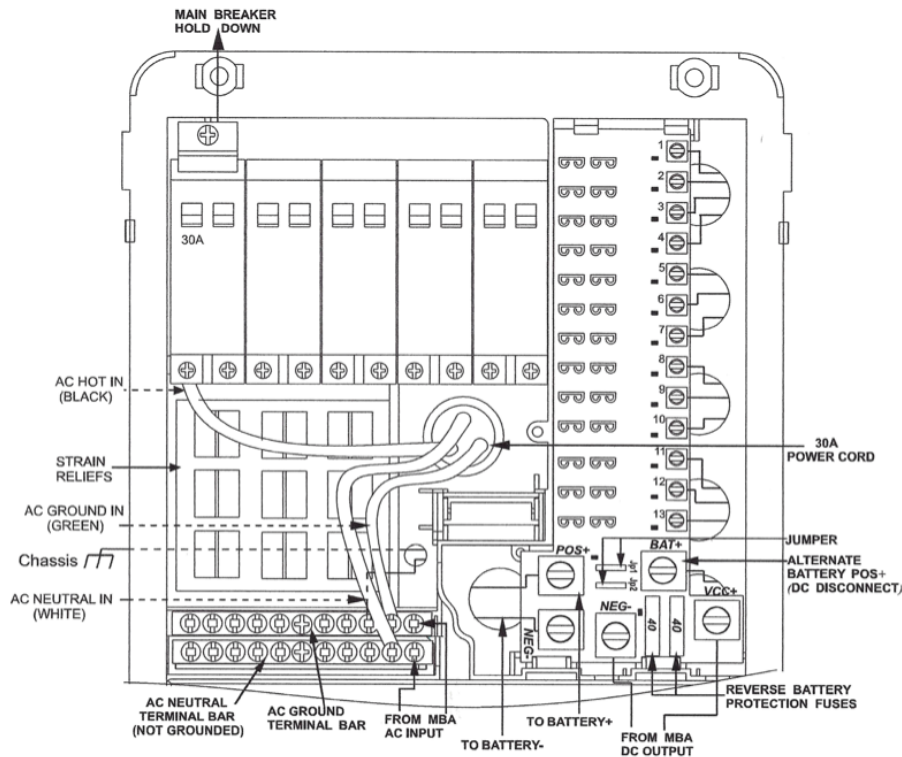


Figure 3



## OPERATIONAL FEATURES Converter Operation Modes

### 3-Stage Smart Charging

In order to maximize battery life, it is best to charge batteries slowly and keep them full with a trickle-charge when the RV is not being used. The 3-Stage "smart" charger continuously measures the battery voltage output and regulates the amount of charge using three modes of operation: Absorption, Bulk and Float modes.

### Converter Modes of Operation

Understanding output voltages of a three stage converter

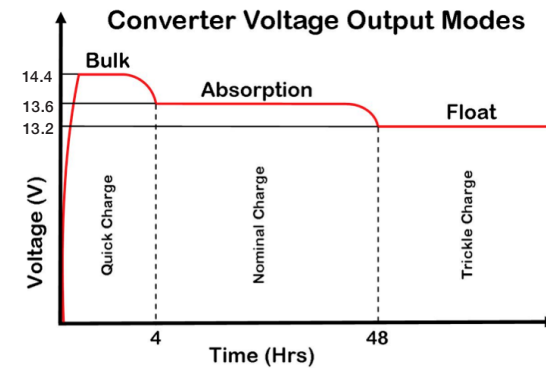


Figure 4

All WFCO power converters are automatic three-stage switching power supplies. The converter senses which mode it needs to be in by checking the RV system voltage.

### Absorption Mode

This is the default or normal mode of operation. This mode provides an output of 13.6 VDC to the DC circuits in the RV. Because RVs today are designed with converters sized to provide ample DC output power for all DC loads in normal usage, an RV will rarely require anything other than Absorption Mode.

When a WF-8500 Power Center is connected to a battery and is operating in Absorption Mode, it is constantly charging that battery any time the converter output is greater than the voltage level of the battery. If the battery is at or near fully charged, the current draw from the converter to the battery may be very small. If the battery were to be fully discharged, the current draw from the converter to the battery may be quite high.

The WF-8500 Series Power Center can charge most properly-functioning, fully-discharged batteries (measured at 11.9 VDC) to a fully-charged level of 12.7 VDC in less than three hours when the converter output is in Absorption Mode (13.6 VDC) and a 20 Amp lighting load is connected. Please note that adding more DC loads to the circuits will decrease the amount of current available to charge the battery, and thus will increase the time required for the battery to reach a full charge. Batteries with damaged cells or sulfation will also require additional time to charge, and may never reach a full charge voltage.



Because of the relationship between voltage and amperage, once the converter reaches its maximum rated operating current level, any increase in the DC load will start to decrease the voltage output level. The converter will go into Bulk Mode when the measured output from the converter reaches approximately 12.5 VDC.

### Bulk Mode

This mode is designed to charge a significantly discharged battery in a little less time than Absorption Mode. The microprocessor in WF-8500 Power Center continuously monitors the DC output voltage. When the microprocessor senses that the output voltage has dropped to a preset level, it will boost the output voltage from 13.6 VDC to approximately 14.4 VDC. The increased voltage will help the battery charge a little faster, while still providing power to the DC lighting and appliances in the RV.

In Bulk Mode, it may not be possible to observe the 14.4 VDC output because of the voltage-current relationship. To measure the 14.4 VDC output with a voltmeter, reduce some DC loads while monitoring the voltage at the converter output. As the DC loads are removed, the voltage will begin to climb until 14.4 VDC (nominal) is shown on the meter.

As the battery continues to charge, the current drawn by the battery will gradually decrease. WFCO Converters are designed to drop out of Bulk Mode when the total amperage draw from the converter reaches a preset point, indicating the battery is charged. **If the amperage draw stays above the preset point, the converter will stay in Bulk Mode for a maximum of four hours. These features have been implemented to protect and extend the life of the battery.**

### Float Mode

This mode is the third stage of converter operation. It is designed to provide a trickle charge to the battery. If the converter observes no significant variations in current draw for approximately 44 continuous hours, it will drop the output of the converter from 13.6V to 13.2V. This lower voltage will keep the battery charged while the RV is not in use. This also helps preserve the life of the battery, while keeping it charged and ready for use. A small change in DC current, such as turning on a light or DC appliance, will cause the converter to exit Float Mode and return to the Absorption Mode. **Note:** While in the float mode, the converter will continue to supply a trickle charge to the battery. If the RV is in storage for thirty (30) days or more, it is good practice to check the battery and its fluid levels on a monthly basis.

NOTE: for a detailed explanation of the charging modes, please refer to our publication "Theory of Operation", document #AD-TD-0001-0

## TROUBLESHOOTING INSTRUCTIONS

### Troubleshooting the 8500 Series Power Center



Refer to the Troubleshooting Guide for the WF-8500 Series Power Center (Figure 5) on the next page.

### Check Converter Output Voltage

Before checking the WF-8500 Series Power Center output voltage, disconnect the battery cables at the battery. Make sure the converter is plugged into an AC source (105-130 Volts). Check the converter output voltage at the battery with a voltmeter. Place the meter probes on the disconnected battery cables; place the **Positive** (red) meter probe on the + **Positive** red battery wire and place the **Negative** (black) meter probe on the - **Negative** black wire on the battery cable. Be sure you have good connections at the cables. If the voltage reads 13.6 VDC (+/- 0.2) with no load, the converter is functioning properly.

If the converter output voltage at the battery reads 0.0 VDC, or if the battery is not charging, check for an open inline fuse in the battery wire circuit. One may have been installed by the RV manufacturer. Also check for loose wiring connections.

### Reverse-Polarity Fuses

If there is no DC output coming from the WF-8500 Series Power Center converter section, first check the reverse-polarity fuses on the fuse board. Then, visually inspect the fuses for any breaks in the fuse element. If no breaks are found, use a continuity tester to check for continuity. If the reverse-polarity fuses are blown, it means the RV battery was accidentally connected in reverse, either at the battery or at the converter. Investigate the connections and reconnect the cables properly. Replace the fuse with the same type and amperage rating as the original.

**IMPORTANT:** These fuses protect the converter from damage in the event that the RV battery is accidentally connected in reverse. A reversed battery connection, even if for only a second, will cause these fuses to blow.

If the above checks have been made but the converter output still reads 0.0 VDC, the converter is not functioning properly.



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## Troubleshooting Guide for WF-8500 Series Power Center

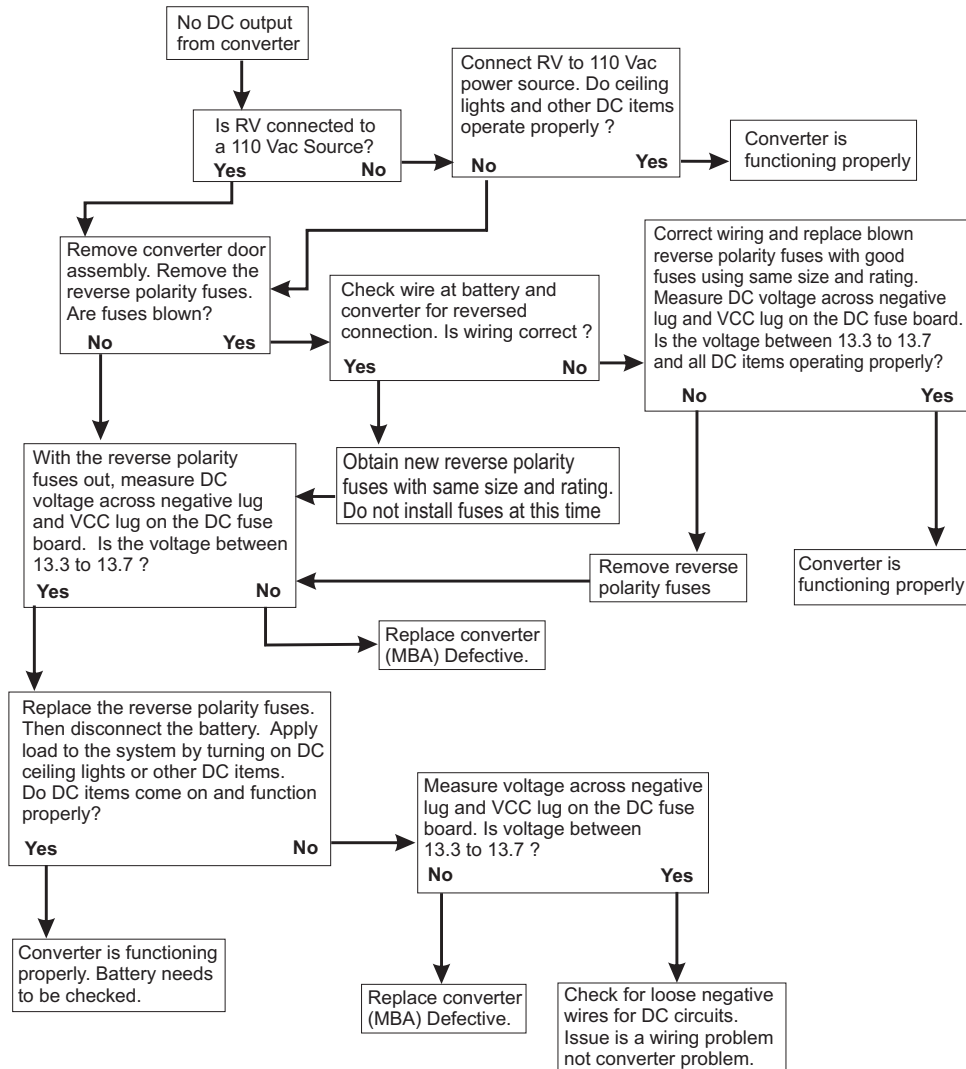


Figure 5



## GENERAL COMPLIANCE INFORMATION Agency Listings

### UL

The WF-8500 Series units are UL-Listed, and cUL-Listed (Canadian).

### FCC Compliance Class B

NOTE: This equipment has been tested and found to comply with the limits for a Class B digital device, pursuant to Part 15 of the FCC Rules. These limits are designed to provide reasonable protection against harmful interference when the equipment is operated in a commercial environment. This equipment generates, uses, and can radiate radio frequency energy, and if not installed and used in accordance with the instruction manual, may cause harmful interference to radio communications. Operation of this equipment in a residential area is likely to cause harmful interference in which case the user will be required to correct the interference at his own expense.

## INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS Installing the WF-8500 Series Power Center

### Mounting the Enclosure

The WF-8500 Series enclosure should be mounted in an accessible area such as a wall or in the side of a cabinet. The front of the enclosure should not be obstructed to allow free air flow for the cooling fan. The enclosure will slide into a rough opening of 11.51(in) H x 7.87(in) W. The enclosure depth is 7.38(in). The enclosure fastens to the wall or cabinet using 4 wood screws, not supplied.

### Wiring the AC System

**\*\* Make sure no AC power is coming into the RV from either the Shore Power cord or an on-board generator.** Determine the proper size breakers for the loads the WF-8500 Series will be powering. You can use either single or duplex breakers, or a combination of both. We recommend that all the breakers used be of the same brand. When using duplex style circuit breakers, a total of 10 breakers can be mounted in the WF-8500 Series, 1 Main breaker and 9 Branch breakers. Refer to the tables on pages 5 and 6 for a selection of approved breakers. The Main breaker should be 30 Amp and is to be installed in the left-most position. See the wiring diagram (Figure 6) on page 13. A hold down clip is provided to keep the breaker securely in place.

The 30 Amp power cord is routed through the large knockout in the wiring compartment and secured with a listed strain relief clamp. The Black (Hot) wire is connected to the 30 Amp Main breaker as shown. The White (Neutral) wire is connected to the Neutral Terminal bar at the bottom of the wiring compartment. The Green (Ground) wire is connected to the Ground Terminal bar also located at the bottom of the compartment.

An 8AWG copper conductor shall be used to bond the power center/converter to the vehicle frame.



Route the Romex leads for the Branch circuits through the Strain Reliefs in the back of the wiring compartment. In a similar fashion, connect the Black wire to the Branch breaker and the White and Green wires to the appropriate Terminal bar.

The Black power wire for the converter has a pigtail connection. The metal pin is inserted in the Branch breaker designated for converter power. The end with the wire nut can be used to power another circuit if necessary. If not used, leave the wire nut installed and push the wire to the side. Make sure all terminals are torqued to the specifications listed on the back of the enclosure.

### Wiring the DC Fuse Board

**\*\* Make sure the house battery is disconnected and there is no AC Power connected to the system before beginning the DC wiring.** Determine what DC loads are to be connected to the fuse board and what position they will occupy. Circuits 11, 12, and 13 may be used for 30 Amp Max loads, and can accept a maximum 30 Amp ATO or ATC fuses installed. The remaining ten circuits are general purpose and can accept up to 20 Amp ATO or ATC fuses installed. Make sure the fuses are seated properly.

Depending on the WF-8500 Series model, there are 3 different methods of connecting the DC loads to the fuse board.

**-S Models.** These models have screw terminal connections. Strip approximately .25" of insulation from the load's wire and insert into the screw terminal. Tighten the terminal to the torque specified on the back of the enclosure.

**-Q Models.** These models have a male Quick Connect tab on the fuse board and mate with a female Quick Connect on the load wire. When installing this terminal, be sure the female terminal is fully seated on the fuse board.

**-W Models.** These models have a 12" wire for each circuit extending from the back of the enclosure. Strip approximately .50" insulation from the load's wire, twist the bare wire from the appropriate fuse position together with the load wire, and securely fasten with a suitably-listed connector.

Connect the heavy wire (Red) coming from the battery to the **BAT+** lug located directly above the Reverse-Polarity fuses. Make sure this lug is torqued properly.

As a last step, install a separate bus bar in a location behind the converter. Run a 6 AWG wire from the **NEG-** lug on the bottom left of the DC fuse board to this bus bar. Connect the battery negative wire to this bus bar along with all the negative DC load wires. Also, run a wire from the bus bar to chassis ground.

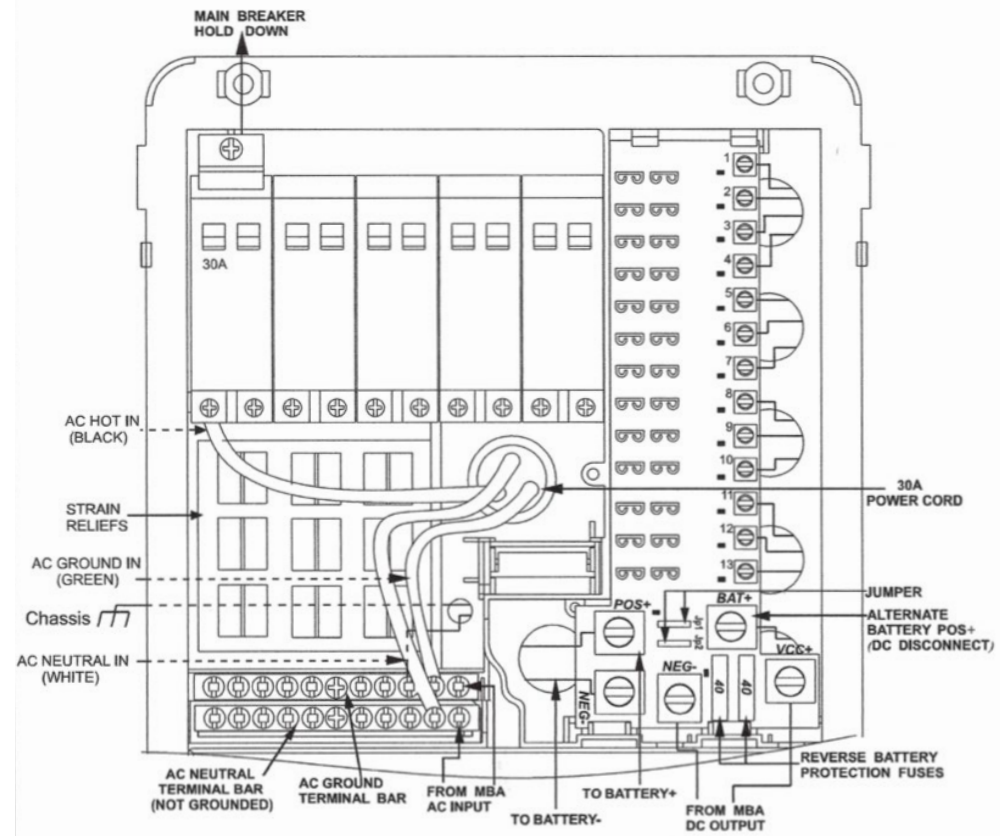


Figure 6



## CONSUMER LIMITED WARRANTY for WFCO Electronic Products

WFCO extends, to the original owner, a Two Year Limited Product Warranty. This warranty is in effect from the date of original purchase for a period of two (2) years. This limited warranty is extended specifically for and is limited to Recreational Vehicle application and is only valid within the continental United States, Alaska, Hawaii and the Provinces of Canada.

WFCO warrants, to the owner, that its products are free from defects in material and workmanship under normal use and service based on its intended use and function. This warranty is limited to the repair or replacement, at WFCO's discretion, of any defective parts or defective assembly. Any implied warranties of merchantability or fitness for intended use are limited in duration unless applicable State Law provides otherwise. You may have other rights as specified by each individual state.

### EXCLUSIONS and LIMITATIONS

The OEM warranty specifically does not apply to the following:

- Any WFCO product that has been repaired or altered by an unauthorized person;
- Any damage caused by misuse, faulty installation, testing, negligence, accident or any WFCO product installed in a commercial vehicle;
- Any WFCO product, whose serial number has been defaced, altered or removed;
- Any WFCO product, whose installation has not been in accordance to the WFCO written instructions;
- Any consequential damages arising from the loss of use of the product including but not limited to: inconvenience, loss of service, loss of revenue, loss or damage to personal property, cost of all services performed in removing or replacing the WFCO product. Specifications are subject to change without notice or obligation.
- Any WFCO Electronics products sold through unauthorized Internet sources (Example: eBay) will be excluded from all warranty coverage offered by Arterra Distribution / WFCO.

## CONSUMER WARRANTY CLAIM PROCEDURE

Upon determination and validation by an authorized OEM dealer that a WFCO product has a defect, a Return Goods Authorization (RGA) number will be required before it can be returned. The RGA number can be requested by completing the **Warranty Information Fax Sheet** found at [www.wfcoelectronics.com](http://www.wfcoelectronics.com). Once the form has been completed, email this form along with Proof of Purchase to [warranty@wfcoelectronics.com](mailto:warranty@wfcoelectronics.com) or fax both forms to the Warranty Department at (574) 294-8698. After receipt of the forms, an RGA number will be issued. This number shall appear on all correspondence with warranty service. Upon validation of the warranty, WFCO shall replace or repair the product with a like product. The RGA number shall be placed on the outside of the carton used to return the product for ease of identification. Do not mark directly on the product. The product must be packaged properly to avoid further product damage which could cause a non-warrantable condition.

### WARRANTY ASSISTANCE

The consumer may contact the selling Dealer or OEM for warranty assistance. The consumer may also contact Arterra Distribution at: (877) 294-8997 or Fax (574) 294-8698.







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