WINNEBAGO PANTRY DOOR ALIGNMENT & SLIDER/LOCK REPLACEMENT

So one day you find your pantry completely extended and it will no longer remain latched. You examine the spring loaded latch and find it broken. So what are your options?

Well, if your drawer slides are in good shape, and just the latch broke, you have several options. These range in difficulty and will take anywhere from 30 minutes to 3 hours to repair. It all depends on how good of a job you want to do.

OPTION "A": Order the drawer slide from Winnebago for $116 (Part #122360-03-000) and just replace the inner side arm; and reuse the outer slide mechanism. This is the fastest way to deal with your latch mechanism repair/replacement, but you have to order the slider from Winnebago and if you are on the road this may be difficult or impossible to do. (But I think you can ship to "General Delivery" at a local Post Office.)

OPTION "B": Go to Home Depot or Lowes and pick up a pair of "push-to-open" (PTO) drawer slides for $20. You can get these in different lengths, but we picked up the 20" long version, because they did not stock the 18" long type.

This is picture of a common Winnebago pantry in my Itasca "Horizon" 40AD. Notice there are only 2 sliders.



You will also find the Winnebago pantry slide measures 22" long. However, the true physical extension from the cabinet face is only 18" long.



HINT: Before you reuse your old screw holes in the pantry, get some wood toothpicks and hammer toothpicks into the old screw holes before you tighten up the wood screws with your new sliders. I also recommend you add silicone caulk to the back of the pantry slider for added support.

The latch is spring loaded and has a locking tab. In the picture this tab is square, but it can get warn down or even breakoff.



I opted to replace my center Winnebago slider with a new one; and then I added a new 20" PTO slider on top and one on the bottom. So now my pantry is very stable and has 3 slides! (Something Winnebago should have done from the beginning!

NOTICE the wood stick I used to make sure the slides line-up correctly and are properly spaced. However you can also measure from the left side of the cabinet too. Also, each slider had a different shim on the back to achieve the proper spacing. We used "painter sticks" available for free at any hardware store, but Home Depot had the 5 gallon sticks that were larger and thicker.



TIPS:

1) YOU MUST HAVE THE RIGHT TOOLS BEFORE YOU START THE PROJECT!

2) MOUNT 2 OR 3 SLIDES EQUALLY SPACED FROM THE LEFT. USE SHIMS AS NECESSARY.

3a) THE TOP SLIDE IS YOUR GUIDE. AFTER YOU INSTALL IT YOU INSERT THE PANTRY AND JUST LET IT HANG UNTIL YOU LINE-UP THE BOTTOM INNER SLIDE.

3b) MOUNT THE PTO-SLIDER ABOUT 1/16" TO 3/32" BEYOND THE CABINET FACE. THIS IS SO YOU HAVE ENOUGH ROOM TO PUSH THE PANTRY IN SO AS TO RELEASE THE LOCKING MECHANISM.

3c) IF YOU USE THE WINNEBAGO CENTER SLIDE, WITH THE LATCH, THIS SLIDE IS MOUNTED ABOUT 3/8" BEYOND THE CABINET FACE.

Here are more pictures and comments to help you along your way:



Buy the 18” or 20” or 22” Push To Open Slide Set. All will work. The minimum drawer slide length is 18”, but it’s the locking part that matters the most.



This is a must. $7 at HD. Note: A metal T-square will work but will be 4x more difficult to use. And the plastic triangle has a “lip” you need to have to properly align the slider.

OTHER MUST HAVE TOOLS:

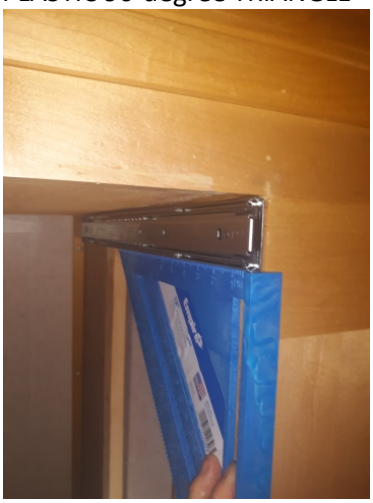


* 90-degree drill chuck that will accept a Phillips #2 head
* Battery drill with forward/reverse
* Drill bit to pre-drill first 2 slider screw holes.
* Stubby #2 Phillips screwdriver
* Light
*Painter Sticks (Free At Home Depot) to use as shims if needed
* Large wood toothpicks… to fill in any holes drilled by mistake
* 12-18 extra 1-1/4” #6 wood screws with tapered head

Also a must: A case of water and a book that will let you rest the pantry on top so 1-person can manipulate the pantry in place. …And you need to book on top of the water so you can remove it after you position the pantry into place.



THIS IS CRITICAL! …USE THE PLASTIC 90-degree TRIANGLE



Likewise, all slides need to measure the same distance from the left. (Use painter sticks or other material as shims.)

This picture shows 3 slides. The top and bottom are PTO slides from Home Depot and the center slide is the one I got at Winnebago and has a latch.



DO NOT ATTEMPT THIS PROJECT WITHOUT A 90-DEGREE PLASTIC TRIANGLE OR 105-degree drill chuck.

https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0797TF6F5/ref=sspa_dk_detail_5?psc=1

OTHER COMMENTS:

* Be sure you mount each external slider piece at 90-degree angles to the cabinet face using the plastic Right-Triangle. Hint: Use a pen to mark 2 holes after you position the slider. Then pre-drill about a ½" so you can add screws using a stubby Phillips #2 screwdriver. Tighten… with your 90-degree drill. Then recheck for 90-degree accuracy with the plastic triangle. When correct, add several more #6 screws to secure the slider in place on the right side only.

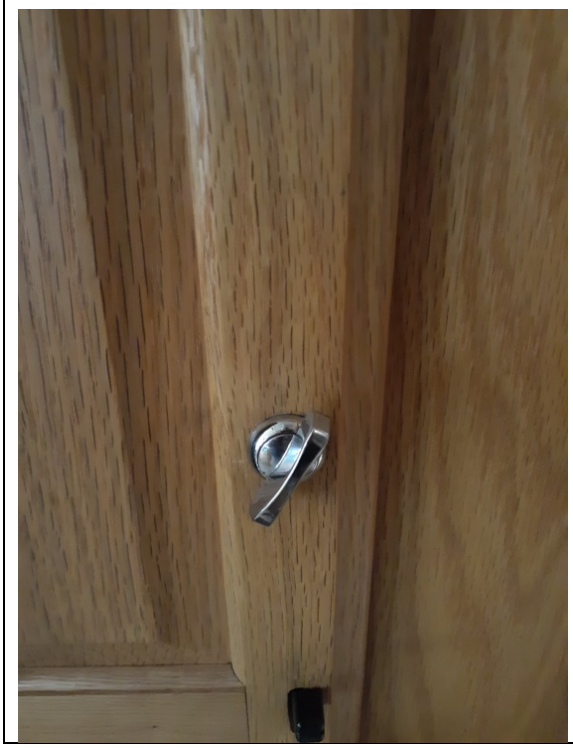
* When you attach the inner slider to the pantry, we recommend you add silicone caulk, because the pantry assembly is sort of flimsy, but this is optional.

* With the top inter slider screwed into the panty at the top, you then can push the pantry into the cabinet opening… letting the pantry hang freely from the top slide. Note: If you installed the bottom sliders perfectly then you pantry sidewall will lie against the inner slide arm. Just extend this arm, check for proper alignment, add caulk, and then screw tight.

* If the latching does not work you need to extend the slider out further from the cabinet face and start over again. Note: If you have too much of a cabinet gap then you can either live with it or try again. (Use toothpicks to fill in your old screw holes and bang these in with a hammer.)

GOOD LUCK!

Below is another way to go…

Don’t want to mess with new sliders? Here’s what one owner did to his pantry. He added a cabinet latch you can also buy from Winnebago; and he cut out the side wall of his pantry to make room for the “locking arm.” 	This is not what I would do, but it’s an option. 

END.