

# Plug & Play

Plug an Ampfibian into  
mains power and play  
with your appliances...



The Ampfibian is a weatherproof joiner to connect your RV's 15 A power lead to any 10 A domestic power point. It's also the only way of making the connection legally...

There's a dirty little secret in the RV world: Many people make up their own adapters to connect a 15 A power lead to a 10 A home power socket. It's done so they can charge up their vehicle's house batteries, cool down the fridge before a trip and even run all the systems if using the vehicle as guest accommodation. Not only is it illegal, it's dangerous.

What's the problem? A dodgy home-made plug connection can lead to electrocution and/or overheating, causing fire. And a fire caused by such a lead would void your RV and home insurance, so if it burns down or severely damages your home, your vehicle and/or your neighbours' property it could lead to police charges, legal action and even personal bankruptcy. The alternatives are to have an outdoor 15 A socket fitted at home or buy a legal 15 amp-to-10 amp power adaptor. Neither is particularly cheap, but like taking a taxi if you've been drinking; if you can't afford the cost you certainly can't afford the consequences!

Project Polly spends a lot of time sitting on the driveway. As such we like to keep the new house battery topped up – we don't have solar yet – and so plugging her in is the only alternative. We don't have an outdoor 15 A socket, so the quickest/easiest alternative seems to be to find a legal adapter cable.

### Amp Who?

Ampfibian is an Australian business located in Ballina on the Far North Coast of NSW. According to its website, "In 2005 Ampfibian successfully lobbied to change the Australian electrical standard, making it possible to connect 15 A devices to 10 A outlets under specific circumstances. It then developed and sold the first legal 15 A-to-10 A adapter (the RV-02) for use with recreational vehicles. The Ampfibian product range has since expanded to include domestic, trade, and industrial adapters".

Ampfibian adapters are well known and chances are you've seen one of the bright orange devices (or at least an ad for one) in your travels. The RV02-MAX is the



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RVer's Ampfibian of choice: It's basically a weatherproof pod with a plug for your vehicle's 15 A lead at one end, a 10 A plug on a 1.8 m lead at the other end, and a 10 A/2400 W circuit breaker and residual current device (RCD) in the middle. It even comes with a flip-out hook for hanging, if desired. With a recommended retail price of \$269 it might seem expensive, but it's a sturdy and well made device that should provide years of service. Also, compared to the cost of installing a 15 A outlet at home, you can take an Ampfibian with you when you travel. The only option is a Ampfibian-branded carry bag for easy storage.

In use, the only 'maintenance' required is a recommended monthly testing of the circuit breaker/RCD, which is done by plugging it in and pressing the test switch. Connecting a 15 A power lead is straightforward; just release the latch on the clear plastic lid so it hinges up, plug in your lead and ensure it sits on a special tensioning cleat where it exits the device. Then snap the lid shut, plug the 10 A end into a home power socket and you're in business.

### Mini Me

Researching online we found a Mini Ampfibian for only \$99 that does the same job and would take up less room in your vehicle. Reading the specs carefully it soon became apparent that while it does the same job it has a serious drawback: It's not 100% weatherproof. For our usage intention that wasn't actually a deal breaker as we could run a power lead from the garage, but for anyone with an external power point only it's a no-go. While it does have a degree of water protection – it's rated to the internationally recognised Ingress Protection Level 3 (IP\_3) for protection against spraying water/rain at an angle up to 60° from vertical – the RV02-MAX Ampfibian is rated to IP\_5, which ensures protection from water from any angle.



**Top to bottom:** Inside the cable exit point is a waterproof seal; the Ampfibian Mini isn't weatherproof and is unsuitable for RV work; a clear cover lets you ensure the 15 A plug is securely connected.





“ The RV02-MAX Ampfibian is rated to IP\_5, which ensures protection from water from any angle. ”

### Bottom Line

The Ampfibian RV02-MAX now gives us the ability to plug into a domestic 10 A socket wherever we park – be it at home or when visiting friends, and in any weather. It's legal, safe and provides 100% peace of mind – and that final point is priceless! 

### Fast Facts

**Name:** Ampfibian Pty Ltd

**Product:** RV02-MAX

**Cost:** \$269 +pph

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