

RV Inspection Checklist

A free resource from [Changin' Gears](http://ChanginGears.com) (<http://ChanginGears.com>)

Details at <http://changingears.com/rv-checklist-inspection.shtml>

This checklist is intended as a guide for inspecting new and used recreational vehicles.

When buying a new RV, use this as your pre-delivery inspection (PDI) checklist. The dealer will provide their own pre-deliver inspection, but those tend to be less detailed and performed by someone other than you. In case you are not able to perform a detailed inspection before taking delivery, inspect the RV as soon after as possible, while still near the dealer to request warranty repairs.

When buying a used RV, consider running through this inspection checklist with several new RV's first, so that you will be able to spot problems on used units more easily.

Most items on this list can be inspected by an average person; for more specialized items such as brakes, engines, etc., consider having a qualified technician do the inspection.

Also see the [RV Road Test: Motor Homes](#) or [RV Road Test: Trailers](#) checklist.

RV Details	
RV Number (your own #):	Inspected By:
Year:	Owner:
Make:	Address:
Model:	City:
RV Type:	Phone:
VIN:	Asking \$:
License Plate:	Mileage:

Items to Take to Inspection

	This inspection checklist
	RV Road Test: Motor Homes or RV Road Test: Trailers checklist
	Notebook and pen
	Fifty foot tape measure
	Calculator
	Flashlight with fresh batteries
	Screwdriver with Phillips and flathead tips
	Pliers
	Small mirror (for looking into hard-to-see areas)
	Tire pressure gauge with 100 psi range
	Tarp or creeper (for inspecting underside)
	Rubber soled shoes (for better traction while walking on roof)
	Work gloves
	Rags (for checking fluid levels, wiping hands)
	Wet towels (for cleaning hands)
	Engine coolant test strip

OUTSIDE: Walls	Right	Back	Left	Front
Surface condition				
Signs of leaks				
Seals and caulking				
Trim				
Doors & screens				
Windows & screens				
Vents				
Hand rails				
Awning mechanisms				
Awning canvas				
Awning wind sensor operation, ability to turn off				
Lights				
Mirrors				
Steps				
Connector covers & sockets				
Fuel doors, locks, and caps				
Slide external seals				
Slide operation, motorized				
Slide operation, manual crank				
Slide locking mechanism				
Slide covers (toppers)				
Fold-outs & expansions				

OUTSIDE: Roof

	Surface condition
	Corners and edges where walls attach
	Signs of leaks
	Seals and caulking
	Vents and vent hoods
	Skylights
	Slide covers (toppers)
	Air conditioners
	Antennas and satellite dishes
	Ladder condition and caulking where it attaches to RV
	Solar panels

OUTSIDE: Underside

	Fluid leaks
	Frame condition, signs of damage or repair
	Welds
	Axles
	Suspension
	Electric brake wiring
	Plumbing
	Holding tanks (water, waste)
	Underside enclosure and insulation
	Straps holding pipes, hoses, wires
	Leveling jacks (landing legs)
	Stabilizing jacks
	Drive shaft
	Rear differential
	Boots (enclosing various joints)

OUTSIDE: Storage Compartments

	Overall condition
	Signs of leaks
	In lower compartments, look up to inspect floor condition
	Shine flashlight into all openings, inspecting all visible components
	Doors and seals
	Lights
	Sliding tray and locking mechanism

OUTSIDE: Wheels

	Tire pressure
	Tire tread
	Tire walls
	Tire date of manufacture:
	Spare tire
	Lug nut torque
	Wheel rims
	Brake function of each wheel
	Brake pads
	Brake rotor surface

OUTSIDE: Utilities

	Power cable and connectors
	RV batteries (house batteries)
	RV battery disconnect switch
	RV battery sliding tray secure
	Cable TV connector
	Telephone connector
	Satellite dish connector
	Fresh water hose and connectors
	Outside shower
	Outside faucet
	Fresh water tank fill valve
	Fresh water tank drain valve
	Winterizing connector and valve (antifreeze)
	Water heater tank drain valve
	Sewer hose and connectors
	Sewer hose storage tube or compartment
	Gray tank dump valve
	Black tank dump valve
	Black tank pressure wash connector and valve
	Generator hours:
	Generator fluid levels
	Generator operation
	Generator noise level
	Generator exhaust location

OUTSIDE: Propane

	Propane bottle condition
	Propane bottles and sliding tray secure
	Tanks have OPD valves (triangular shape)
	Connections, pipes, and hoses
	Level or empty indicators
	Automatic tank selector device
	Regulator output pressure

OUTSIDE: Motor Home Engine Compartment

	Engine oil
	Engine coolant
	Power steering fluid
	Brake fluid
	Transmission fluid
	Windshield washer fluid
	Hoses
	Belts
	Batteries
	Leaks, fluid
	Leaks, exhaust
	Wiring
	Air filter
	Fuel filter
	Engine oil analysis, take sample (ignore if oil was recently changed)
	Engine coolant analysis, use test strip
	Engine start
	Exhaust color at start
	Engine idle
	Exhaust color after 5 minutes of idling

OUTSIDE: Trailer Coupling Components

	Tongue or King Pin overall condition
	Supplemental hitching equipment (sway bars, weight-distributing hitch, etc.)
	Safety chains
	Umbilical cord and connector
	Breakaway switch and cable
	Hitch receiver (on or under rear bumper)
	Trailer wiring harness and plug (for pulling toad or trailer behind RV)

INSIDE: General

	Kitchen	Living & Dine	Bedroom	Bath
Floor plan (layout)				
Necessities are accessible with slides in				
Flooring				
Stomp on floor to detect weak areas				
Walls				
Slide internal seals				
Trim				
Windows and screens				
Drapes and shades				
Door locks or latches				
Cabinetry finish				
Cabinetry hinges, slides, latches				
Cabinetry interior				
Remove drawers, inspect behind them				
Ceiling				
Press up on ceiling to detect sagging				
Ceiling exhaust vents and fans				
Furniture				
Look under and behind movable furniture				
Mattresses				
Pull out and fold down beds				
Rodent and pest presence or damage				

INSIDE: Kitchen

	Countertops
	Counter top extensions
	Sink
	Seals and caulking around sink
	Stove top, burners, igniters
	Stove hood exhaust fan and vent cover
	Oven and pilot light
	Microwave oven
	Coffee maker
	Dish washer
	Refrigerator works on all power sources (A/C, propane)
	Freezer
	Ice maker
	Drinking water filter

INSIDE: Bathroom

	Toilet flushes
	Signs of leaks around toilet base
	Look into black tank through toilet for hardened solid waste
	Sink and fixtures
	Shower and tub walls
	Shower fixtures
	Shower door and latch
	Shower skylight
	Washer and dryer connections (but no washer or dryer)
	Washer and dryer
	Washer hoses, indication of leaks
	Dryer vent
	Unscrew panels around and behind shower, inspect for leaks

INSIDE: Fresh Water Systems

	Faucets work
	Water heater works on A/C and propane
	Water pump works
	Water pump shuts off automatically soon after all faucets are closed
	Water pump does <u>not</u> turn on occasionally when all faucets are closed <u>and</u> ice maker is turned off (if yes, then there may be a leak)
	Water pump on/off switch
	Fresh water tank level indicator

INSIDE: Waste Systems

	Gray tank level indicator
	Black tank level indicator
	Sink and shower drains work
	No foul odor inside RV when toilet not in use (unless toilet flush valve has been open for extended periods for inspection)

INSIDE: Heating & Cooling

	Furnace controls
	Furnace puts out hot air through all floor vents
	Air conditioner controls
	Air conditioners put out cool air through all ducted ceiling vents
	Air conditioner filters
	Electric heater or fireplace
	Ceiling fans
	Thermostat controlled vent fans (<i>Fan Tastic Vent</i>)

INSIDE: Entertainment Electronics

	TV's
	TV security straps
	TV sliding tray locking mechanism
	Audio equipment
	Video equipment (VCR, DVD)
	Video source switch box (antenna, VCR, DVD, satellite, etc.)
	Antenna signal amplifier
	TV antenna controls for raising, lowering, and rotating
	Satellite dish controls for raising, lowering, and rotating

INSIDE: Electrical

	Lights, 120 Volt A/C
	Lights, 12 Volt DC
	A/C outlets have power
	GFCI breakers function
	12 Volt DC ports have power
	A/C supply to RV when connected to shore power
	A/C supply to RV when generator is running
	A/C supply to RV when inverter is running off batteries
	DC supply to RV when connected to shore power
	DC supply to RV when generator is running
	DC supply to RV from batteries
	DC supply to RV from tow vehicle via umbilical cord
	Battery charging when connected to shore power
	Battery charging when generator is running
	Battery charging from tow vehicle via umbilical cord
	Battery charging from solar panels
	Automatic power switching between available systems (shore power, generator, inverter)
	Location of fuse and breaker boxes

INSIDE: Safety Devices

	Fire extinguisher
	Smoke detector
	Carbon Monoxide detector
	Propane gas detector
	Emergency exit windows

INSIDE: Motor Home Cockpit

	Upholstery
	Carpet
	Cabinetry finish
	Cabinetry hinges, slides, latches
	Cabinetry interior
	Items above cockpit secure (TV, etc.)
	Door locks or latches
	Windows and screens
	Windshield cracks and chips
	Drapes, shades, visors
	Driver and passenger seat belts in cockpit
	Passenger seat belts in living area (sofas, chairs)
	Seat adjustments
	Horn
	Rear view mirrors and mirror adjustment controls
	Rear view camera and monitor
	Steering wheel adjustments
	Instrument panel
	Vehicle controls
	Windshield wipers and washer
	Air suspension controls
	Exhaust brake controls
	Secondary fuel tank switch-over controls
	Leveling system controls
	Trailer or toad brake controls and documentation
	Entertainment system (radio, CD, tape, DVD, etc.)
	CB radio and antenna
	Navigation system (GPS)
	Security system arm, disarm, and documentation
	Beverage and snack holders
	Storage compartments and keys
	Step well cover

Dimensions & Capacities

External length (in):	Fresh water tank 1 (gal):
Motor home wheelbase (in):	Fresh water tank 2 (gal):
Motor home wheelbase ratio (%):	Gray water tank 1 (gal):
External width, body (in):	Gray water tank 2 (gal):
External width, total (in):	Black water tank 1 (gal):
Top clearance (ft & in):	Black water tank 2 (gal):
Length when towing (ft):	Propane bottle size (gal):
Engine fuel tanks (gal):	Number of propane bottles:
For liquid weights, see Liquid Weight Calculator .	

Weights

RATINGS from manuf. (lbs)	ACTUAL WEIGHS from scale (lbs)
GVWR:	GVW:
GAWR 1:	GAW 1:
GAWR 2:	GAW 2:
GAWR 3:	GAW 3:
GCWR:	Left side:
Tire rating:	Right side:
ESTIMATES (lbs)	
Curb Weight (GVW - fluids already in GVW + all tanks full):	
Expected personal cargo weight (items you will add to RV):	
Persons weight (avg. 150 lbs × # persons):	
Adjusted GVW (add above 3 items):	
Maximum tongue weight (lesser of [GVWR - Adj. GVW] or rating): For towing a trailer behind this RV.	
Maximum tow capacity (lesser of [GCWR - Adj. GVW] or rating): For towing a trailer behind this RV.	
For weight definitions, see Understanding RV Weights . Also see Adjust GVW Calculator .	

Documentation

	Title
	MSRP sheet
	RV manuals
	Engine manuals
	Appliance manuals
	Maintenance records
	Warranty documentation for all major components and appliances
	Extended warranty documentation