

RV Pre-Trip Safety Checklist

Tyres, fluids, lights, hitch, and safety checks



Operating a recreational vehicle requires a higher level of vigilance than a standard passenger car. This checklist ensures your rig is roadworthy and that your transition from driveway to highway is seamless and secure.

Exterior & Mechanical Inspection

- **Tyre Condition:**
 - Inspect all tyres (including spare) for wear, damage, and proper inflation. Refer to your RV's manual for correct PSI.
- **Fluid Levels:**
 - Check engine oil, coolant, brake fluid, power steering fluid, and windshield washer fluid. Top up as needed.
- **Lights & Signals:**
 - Verify that headlights, tail lights, brake lights, turn signals, and hazard lights are functioning correctly.
- **Battery Condition:**
 - Check battery terminals for corrosion and ensure they are securely connected. Test battery charge level.
- **Mirrors & Windows:**
 - Clean all mirrors and windows for optimal visibility. Ensure mirrors are properly adjusted.
- **Windshield Wipers:**
 - Inspect wiper blades for wear and tear. Test wiper function and washer fluid spray.
- **LP Gas System:**
 - Check LP gas lines and connections for leaks. Ensure the LP gas tank is properly secured and filled to an appropriate level.
- **Generator (if applicable):**
 - Check generator oil level and coolant level. Start the generator and ensure it runs smoothly.
- **Awning:**
 - Inspect awning for damage. Ensure it is properly retracted and secured.
- **Steps:**

- Ensure that they are functioning properly and retract and extend smoothly.



Hitch & Towing Systems

- **Hitch Connection:**
 - Verify that the hitch is properly connected and secured to the tow vehicle. Check for any signs of wear or damage.
- **Safety Chains:**
 - Ensure safety chains are properly connected and crossed under the hitch. Check for proper length and secure attachment points.
- **Wiring Harness:**
 - Inspect the wiring harness for damage and ensure it is securely connected. Test all lights and signals.
- **Breakaway Cable:**
 - Verify that the breakaway cable is properly connected to the tow vehicle. Ensure the cable is in good condition and functions correctly.
- **Weight Distribution:**
 - If using a weight distribution system, ensure it is properly adjusted and all components are securely connected.
- **Brake Controller:**
 - Test the brake controller to ensure it is functioning properly. Adjust the brake controller settings as needed.
- **Tyre Pressure (Tow Vehicle):**
 - Check the tyre pressure of the tow vehicle. Inflate to the proper level for towing.
- **Towing Mirrors:**
 - Install towing mirrors if needed. Ensure they are properly adjusted for optimal visibility.



Interior & Clearance Prep

- **Secure Loose Items:**
 - Ensure all loose items inside the RV are properly secured to prevent them from shifting during travel.
- **Close and Latch Cabinets/Drawers:**
 - Verify that all cabinets and drawers are closed and latched to prevent them from opening during travel.
- **Stow Appliances:**

- Secure any appliances (e.g., microwave, coffee maker) to prevent them from moving during travel.
- **Check Water System:**
 - Ensure water pump is off and all faucets are closed. If travelling in freezing temperatures, ensure the water system is properly winterized.
- **Check all vents:**
 - Ensure all roof vents are closed.
- **Lower Antenna/Satellite Dish:**
 - Lower the TV antenna and/or satellite dish before travelling to avoid damage.
- **Clearance:**
 - Be mindful of height restrictions. Ensure all objects like antennas and vents are within the RVs safe height limit.

Important Notice

Educational Purposes Only: The information in this resource is provided for informational and educational purposes only. Requirements and regulations vary by location—always verify rules and safety standards for your specific situation.

Safety Warning: Outdoor and RV activities involve inherent risks. Always follow manufacturer instructions and local safety guidelines. Selfcampers.com is not liable for outcomes related to the use of these resources.

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