

➔ RV CHECKLIST

Before setting out on that all-important trip, review this checklist to help prevent setbacks and costly repairs.

➔ CHASSIS SYSTEM

- Check that the fluid levels are in operating range (oil, power steering, engine coolant, windshield washer, transmission, brake fluid if equipped, etc.).
- Check chassis engine starting battery for clean connections and proper state of charge.
- Check operation of all lights and flashers.
- Check horn operation.
- Prior to trip, start engine and check all gauges for proper operation.
- Check for proper operation of foot brake and parking brake.
- Check wheel lugs for proper tightness.
- Inspect and clean tires. Check and set tire pressure according to actual axle load.
- Inspect engine belts and hoses.
- Check battery electrolyte.
- Check dash A/C operation.
- Check all accessories.
- Inspect and lube leveling jacks, if so equipped.
- Test drive.
- Check air pressure in all tires.
- Torque lug nuts.
- Inspect and lubricate trailer stabilizers.
- Check all running lamps.
- Measure alternator output.
- Test drive.

➔ 12-VOLT-DC ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS

- Check battery electrolyte levels.
- Clean battery and terminals.
- Check cables and conductors.
- Tighten all connections.
- Check and clean chassis ground.
- Fully charge all batteries.
- Measure converter output.
- Measure alternator output.
- Operate all 12-volt-DC devices.
- Take along spare fuses.

➔ 120-VOLT-AC ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS

- Inspect shoreline cord for cuts.
- Clean shoreline cord contacts.
- Test ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI).
- Check polarity at all receptacles.
- Measure converter output.
- Measure inverter output, if so equipped.
- Operate all 120-volt appliances.

➔ GENERATOR

- Check for cleanliness of the generator, as it affects efficiency.
- Service the air cleaner as required by the owners manual.
- Check oil level and change as required by the owners manual.
- Check generator starting battery for clean connections and proper state of charge.
- Keep governor and choke linkage clean.

- Check manufacturer's owners manual to ensure proper maintenance has been performed.

➔ PROPANE SYSTEM

- Inspect propane containers.
- Clean and inspect propane regulator.
- Have a technician check and set propane pressure.
- Test entire system for leaks.
- Inspect/tighten hoses and fittings.
- Test-fire all propane appliances.
- Test propane leak detector.
- Test carbon monoxide alarm.

➔ REFRIGERATOR

- Operate refrigerator on gas, if equipped, and look at burner to see if flame is blue. If it is not, have repairs performed.
- Check to ensure there are no obstructions in ventilation system.
- Check to see that control knobs are not stripped and causing a false thermostat reading.
- When packing the refrigerator, do not pack so tightly as to shut off internal airflow.

➔ AIR-CONDITIONING

- Check air filters and clean if necessary. Look to see if cooling unit coils are clean and free of debris.
- Check to see that condensing unit is clean, free of obstructions, and that nothing is blocking airflow.
- Check voltage at outside panel. Most air-conditioning systems are designed to operate at 120 volts plus or minus 10 percent (108-132 volts).

➔ FRESH-WATER SYSTEM

- Inspect all components.
- Flush and fill fresh-water tank.
- Clean or replace pump strainer.
- Test entire system for leaks.
- Flush water heater.
- Chlorinate entire system.
- Clean/replace purifier element, if so equipped.

➤ WASTE WATER SYSTEM

- Inspect all components.
- Rinse and flush all holding tanks.
- Clean and lube termination valves.
- Test entire system for leaks.
- Clean P traps.
- Check holding tank vents.
- Inspect sewer roof caps.
- Inspect sewer hose.
- Check seal on sewer cap.
- Check seal on hose adapter.
- Use holding tank additive.
- Test toilet bowl seal.
- Lubricate toilet flushing mechanism.

➤ INSIDE THE RV

- Clean and vacuum interior.
- Inspect for water damage.
- Check operation of doors, windows, and window shades.
- Check operation of roof vents.
- Lubricate window sliders, if applicable.
- Check shower door latch.
- Close windows and vents.
- Check that cabinet doors and drawers are closed.
- Check that refrigerator door is fastened.
- Check that no heavy items are stored in overhead cabinets.
- Check that countertops, range top, table tops, and shelves are clear of unsecured items.
- Ensure fire extinguishers are fully charged.
- Check that smoke, carbon monoxide, and propane detectors are installed and working properly.
- Turn off water pump switch.

➤ RV EXTERIOR

- Wash and wax.
- Lubricate door and compartment locks.
- Inspect roof seams and moldings.
- Inspect roof components.
- Clean and treat synthetic roofing.
- Check doors, windows, and vents.
- Inspect undercarriage.

- Lubricate entry step.
- Check operation of all slideouts.
- Lubricate slideout mechanisms.
- Clean and treat slideout seals.

➤ ITEMS YOU MAY WANT TO BRING ALONG

- Spare chassis parts, set of engine drive and accessory belts, fuel filters, oil, highway flares, light bulbs, fuses, and 12-volt trouble light with cord.
- Accurate tire pressure gauge.
- Spare parts for generator (spark plugs, oil, air filter).
- Emergency items: first-aid kit, heating pad, ice bag.
- Pet supplies.
- Extra toilet chemicals and toilet paper.
- Maps and GPS.

➤ THOUGHTS TO CONSIDER

- Be sure RV insurance is current and you have a current insurance card and vehicle registration with you.
- Make sure your roadside assistance plan is current and that you have the number to call if needed.
- Avoid carrying a great deal of cash while traveling.
- Confirm any reservations well in advance.
- Make a clothing checklist.
- Secure home and valuables before leaving.
- Discontinue appropriate home services, mail, and newspaper delivery.
- Notify neighbors and police of departure and return dates.

➤ COLD-WEATHER OPERATION

- Propane appliances, furnace, and gas operation of refrigerator are designed with sealed combustion areas. This is for safety to prevent danger from carbon monoxide or depletion of oxygen. If frost or condensation accumulates in closets or cabinets during long periods of cold-weather operation, leave doors to these areas ajar to provide air circulation.

- Be sure kitchen and roof vents are open when using oven or burners.

➤ IF TOWING A VEHICLE WITH A TOW BAR

- Is the tow bar hooked up and checked?
- Are the safety chains crossed under the coupling and hooked?
- Are the towed vehicle's lights working?
- Is the transmission in the proper gear?
- Is the driveshaft disengaged if need be?
- Is the towed vehicle's parking brake off?
- Is the ignition in the position recommended by the manufacturer?
- Do you have a spare set of keys for the towed vehicle? If yes, lock the towed vehicle.
- Do not attempt to back up when hooked up! Remember, you are driving a vehicle that is 20 feet longer!

➤ JUST BEFORE DRIVING AWAY

- Disconnect and stow electrical cord, sewer hose, and water hose.
- Check TV antenna to ensure it is in the retracted position.
- For safety's sake, turn off all appliances and completely close the service valve on the propane container(s).
- Check that items stored in compartments are secure and the compartments are properly secured/locked.
- Ensure leveling jacks are in the raised position.
- Check that awnings are rolled up and secured.
- Be sure slideouts are retracted and secured.
- Verify the entry steps are retracted.
- Lock the entry door.
- Adjust rearview mirrors and driver's seat.
- Check that campsite is clean and nothing has been left behind.
- Is everyone buckled up?