

## RV Buying Inspection Checklist

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**NOTE:** If your area requires any kind of certification or inspection before putting a vehicle on the road, make sure you get it done. This list does not guarantee a physically or mechanically fit, road-worthy RV – it merely highlights areas that you need to inspect.

### Items to bring along on your RV inspection:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Notebook and pen.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Tape measure, if you have equipment or furnishings that need to fit in the RV.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Flashlight and batteries.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> A multi-tip screwdriver for removing trim pieces and to look behind panels and vents.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Small mirror to look under or around objects.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Tire pressure gauge with 100 psi range</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> A small tarp or piece of cardboard you can lay on for inspecting under the RV.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Rubber soled shoes that will give you traction on an RV roof without damaging it.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Work gloves.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Rags for checking oil and transmission fluid levels.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Wet wipes or damp rag to clean your hands after the inspection.</li> </ul> |
|--|---|

✓	Inspect	Notes
	<b>Exterior - General</b>	
	Overall exterior condition/appearance.	
	Condition of seals and caulking.	
	Rust lines or dirt lines that indicate leaks.	
	Damage to trim pieces.	
	Exterior doors, windows, screens.	
	Vents.	
	External fittings (hand rails, mirrors, hitches, ladder to roof, etc)	
	Awning operation and condition.	
	Headlights, running lights, etc.	
	Slide-out overall condition, seals, and cover/topping (open and closed).	

✓	Inspect	Notes
<b>Exterior - Wheels</b>		
	Sidewall damage or cracking.	
	Tread wear.	
	Proper pressure.	
	Damage to trim pieces.	
	Age of tires.	
	Have tires been covered when not traveling?	
	Wheel rim condition.	

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✓	Inspect	Notes
<b>Exterior - Storage Compartments</b>		
	Door operation, latch operation, seal condition.	
	Signs of leakage inside compartment.	
	Weak spots in compartment walls or floors.	
	Lights, if equipped.	
	Sliding trays, if equipped.	

✓	Inspect	Notes
<b>Exterior - Roof</b>		
	Ladder to roof.	
	Overall surface condition.	
	Bubbles in covering, lifting edges or corners, tears, gouges, or soft spots.	
	Condition of seals and caulking.	
	Edges where walls connect.	
	Signs of water pooling (could lead to leaks).	
	Skylights.	
	Vents and vent hoods.	
	Air conditioner.	
	Antenna(es) raised and lowered.	
	Solar Panels.	

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✓	Inspect	Notes
<b>Exterior - Engine</b>		
	All fluid and coolant levels.	
	Condition of hoses, wires, belts, air filter.	
	Indications of leaks? Residue or shiny areas where leaks have been wiped.	
	Batteries.	
	Engine start.	
	Exhaust color at start? Bluish indicates oil, black indicates running rich.	
	Exhaust color when warm? Bluish indicates oil, black indicates running rich.	
	Odd sounds when running idling or accelerating.	

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✓	Inspect	Notes
<b>Exterior - Equipment &amp; Connections</b>		
	Power connector (and cable if included).	
	Fresh water fill connection (and cable if included).	
	Cable TV, antenna, phone line connections.	
	Cabin batteries (as opposed to engine batteries), and compartment.	
	Cabin battery disconnect switch.	
	Inverter (12 VDC to 110 VAC).	
	Outside shower and faucet.	
	Freshwater, gray water, black water drains (and hoses if included).	
	Drain hose storage area.	
	Winterizing connection (if equipped).	
	Water heater drain plug/valve.	
	Generator overall condition and hours (hours might be recorded inside).	
	Generator fluid levels and condition.	
	Generator operation and noise levels (may need to start from inside).	
	Propane tank, lines, and connections.	
	Hitch.	

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We're including the next section here because it's part of the exterior, but you may want to save it for last in case you get dirty.

✓	Inspect	Notes
<b>Exterior - Undercarriage</b>		
	Frame condition.	
	Exhaust system.	
	Signs of leaks on the undercarriage or ground ( <b>before</b> test drive).	
	Signs of leaks on the undercarriage or ground ( <b>after</b> test drive).	
	Suspension.	
	Exhaust system.	
	Wiring.	
	Plumbing lines, holding tanks, and tank drains.	
	Stabilizing/levelling jacks.	

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Since you probably sat in the driver's seat to start the engine, the cockpit is a good place to start your interior inspection.

✓	Inspect	Notes
<b>Interior - Cockpit</b>		
	Doors, latches, hinges, interior panels.	
	Door window, vent, lock operation.	
	Instrument panel lights and gauges.	
	Windshield condition, wipers and washer.	
	Visors. Shades if equipped.	
	Radio/CD player/MP3/etc.	
	GPS.	
	CB Radio.	
	Alarm system.	

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<b>Interior – Cockpit, continued</b>	
	Remote start.
	Seat belts.
	Seat adjustment (manual and/or power).
	Rear view mirrors and controls.
	Rear view monitor.
	Steering wheel horn, adjustments, on-wheel controls (radio, cruise control, etc).
	Transmission lever.
	Emergency brake and release.
	Trailer brakes.
	Air suspension controls.
	Leveling system.
	Seat upholstery.
	Flooring condition.
	Storage areas/compartments – doors, latches, hinges, locks.
	Cup holders.

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✓	Inspect	Notes
<b>Interior - General</b>		
	Overall floor plan	
	Seat belts in living/passenger area.	
	Flooring condition. Vinyl, carpet, tile. Age, wear, stains, damage.	
	Sub-flooring condition – creaks, raised areas, dips, ridges, soft spots.	
	Wall condition – soft spots, water stains, wall covering peeling, etc.	
	Ceiling condition. Soft spots, sagging, water stains.	
	Cabinetry. Accessibility, hinges, latches, overall condition, water leak stains.	
	Drawer size, operation, condition of cabinet behind drawers.	
	Exhaust vents and fans in ceiling.	
	Door latches, locks, hinges.	
	Windows and screen condition and operation.	
	Curtains and blinds.	
	Slide operation and seal condition.	
	What is and isn't accessible when slides are in?	
	Sofas, chairs, tables overall condition.	
	Moveable or convertible furniture operation.	
	Condition of floor and walls under and behind furniture.	
	Mattresses.	
	Signs of rodents or insects. Droppings, chewed wiring or cabinets, etc.	

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✓	Inspect	Notes
<b>Interior - Kitchen</b>		
	Countertop space (extensions), condition, backsplash.	
	Cabinet space.	
	Sink size, condition, seals/caulking, leaks from drain or faucet under cabinet.	
	Filtered water tap, filters, etc.	
	Stove top condition, burner and igniter function.	
	Stove exhaust fan and/or vent cover condition and operation.	
	Gas oven and pilot light operation if equipped.	
	Refrigerator condition and operation on all power sources.	
	Freezer (if equipped) condition and operation on all power sources.	
	Microwave condition and operation.	
	Other appliances – coffee maker, dishwasher.	

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✓	Inspect	Notes
<b>Interior - Bathroom</b>		
	Toilet operation.	
	Flashlight through toilet into black tank to check for solidified waste.	
	Signs of leaks around toilet.	
	Odor from toilet.	
	Sink, vanity, shower, tub condition and signs of leakage.	
	Shower skylight and exhaust fan operation and condition.	
	Condition behind any access panels in bathroom.	

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✓	Inspect	Notes
<b>Interior - Utilities</b>		
	Fresh water tank(s) condition, signs of leakage.	
	Water pump turns on when tap opened and off when tap closed? Pressure?	
	Water heater works on all intended power supplies.	
	Fresh water, gray water, black water tank level indicators.	
	Test all taps and drains.	
	Furnace and air conditioner controls.	
	Furnace and air conditioner air flow through all intended vents.	
	Air conditioner and furnace filter condition.	
	Amount of heat from furnace and amount of cold from air conditioner.	
	AC (120 volt) power available on shore hookup, generator, and inverter.	
	DC (12 volt) power available on shore hookup, generator, and inverter.	
	Check automatic power switching between sources.	
	AC (120 volt) and DC (12 volt) light operation.	
	Power to all AC (120 volt) outlets and DC (12 volt) outlets.	
	Check breakers.	
	Confirm solar panel operation if equipped.	

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✓	Inspect	Notes
<b>Interior - Accessories</b>		
	Television, Audio and video operation.	
	Entertainment hookups. Cable, antenna, satellite, etc.	
	Antenna and satellite dish controls.	

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✓	Inspect	Notes
<b>Interior - Safety</b>		
	Fire extinguishers.	
	Smoke detector.	
	Carbon monoxide detector.	
	Propane gas detector.	
	Emergency exit windows.	
	Alarm system.	

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<b>RV Specifications</b>			
RV Model		Year	
Asking price		Mileage	
Owner name		Owner contact info	
Date inspected			
Additional info			
External length		Fresh water capacity	
Wheelbase (motor home)		Gray water capacity	
External width		Black water capacity	
Height		Fuel tank capacity	
Weight empty (no tanks, luggage, etc)		Propane tank capacity	
Weight loaded (ready to travel and full tanks)			
Provided documentation? Title, vehicle manuals, service records, appliance manuals, warranties, etc.			

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