

RV Pre-Trip Checklist

A practical departure-day walk-around for motorhomes and towable RVs. Print a copy and keep it with your trip paperwork.

1. Exterior Walk-Around

- Check the ground under the RV for fresh fluid, water or sewage leaks.
- Inspect tires for visible damage, abnormal wear and obvious under-inflation; verify pressure when appropriate for your setup.
- Confirm wheel chocks, leveling blocks and stabilizer equipment are removed and stored.
- Close and secure exterior storage compartments, access panels and service doors.
- Retract awnings fully and secure any exterior accessories.
- Retract steps and confirm handrails or entry accessories are secured.
- Check roof-mounted or exterior items you can safely verify from ground level for anything visibly loose.
- Disconnect and store shore power cable, fresh-water hose, sewer hose and adapters as applicable.
- Confirm waste-valve caps are secure and no hose remains connected.
- Walk completely around the RV once more before moving.

2. Towable RV / Hitch Check

- Confirm the coupler or fifth-wheel connection is fully seated and locked.
- Attach safety chains correctly and verify they are not dragging.
- Connect the breakaway cable correctly and independently of the safety chains.
- Connect the trailer electrical plug and verify it is secure.
- Raise and secure the tongue jack or landing gear.
- Check weight-distribution or sway-control components if your towing setup uses them.
- Verify trailer brake, turn-signal and running-light operation before entering traffic.
- Confirm mirrors provide an adequate view along both sides of the trailer.

3. Motorhome Departure Check

- Confirm leveling jacks are fully retracted and the indicator shows travel-ready status.
- Check engine-area warning indicators and gauges after startup.
- Verify mirrors and camera views before moving.
- Confirm tow-bar, supplemental braking and lighting connections if towing a vehicle.
- Make sure the parking brake releases normally and no warning remains unexplained.

4. Interior Secure-for-Travel Check

- Close and latch cabinets, drawers, refrigerator and interior doors.
- Secure loose countertop items, electronics and other objects that could move while driving.
- Lower or secure TV mounts and movable furniture as appropriate.
- Confirm windows, roof vents and skylights are in the intended travel position.
- Turn off appliances or systems that should not operate while traveling according to their manufacturer instructions.
- Secure pets and passenger items before departure.
- Check that nothing blocks the driver's view, pedals or cab controls.

5. Final 60-Second Check

- Destination and route are loaded; low-clearance, weight or length restrictions have been considered.
- Fuel/energy level is adequate for the planned leg.
- Keys, registration, insurance information and campground details are accessible.
- All passengers are aboard and seat belts are in use where provided and required.
- Perform one final visual check of the campsite and both sides of the RV.
- Pull forward slowly, stop when safe, and inspect the vacated campsite for forgotten gear or leaks.

Trip / Destination	Date	Checked by
_____	_____	_____

Important: This general checklist is an organizational aid, not a substitute for your RV, chassis, tire, hitch, appliance or equipment manufacturer instructions, professional inspection, or applicable laws. RV configurations differ. Add the checks required for your specific rig.

Want the complete system?

The ReadyToolkit RV Owner Toolkit brings maintenance, travel, seasonal preparation and record-keeping sheets together in one organized bundle.