

Spring Preparation Checklist for Towable RVs

EXTERIOR INSPECTION

Towing Components

- Inspect hitch for rust, cracks, or damage
- Check safety chains for wear or damage
- Test breakaway switch functionality
- Verify trailer plug connection is clean and functional
- Lubricate hitch components and moving parts
- Inspect weight distribution system (if applicable)
- Verify sway control system is operational (if applicable)
- Check hitch receiver for damage or excessive wear



Tires & Wheels

- Check tire pressure in all tires (including spare)
- Inspect tires for cracks, bulges, or excessive wear
- Check tire age - replace if older than 5-7 years regardless of tread
- Verify lug nuts are properly torqued
- Repack wheel bearings or check sealed bearings
- Test tire pressure monitoring system (if equipped)
- Rotate tires if needed
- Inspect brake shoes/pads and drums/rotors for wear

Undercarriage

- Inspect frame for rust, cracks, or damage
- Check suspension components (leaf springs, shackles, bushings)
- Examine axles for straightness and damage
- Test stabilizer jacks for proper operation
- Inspect chassis for any loose bolts or components
- Check landing gear/leveling system operation
- Verify all slide-out mechanisms are functioning properly
- Look for signs of animal nesting or damage

Exterior Body

- Inspect roof for damage, leaks, or separated seams
- Check and reseal any questionable roof or body seams
- Clean and condition rubber roof (if applicable)
- Test all exterior lights (brake, turn, marker, etc.)
- Inspect windows, seals, and weather stripping
- Lubricate door hinges and locks
- Clean and check awning operation and fabric condition
- Check exterior storage compartment doors and seals
- Inspect exterior paint/finish for damage
- Clean and test exterior shower (if equipped)

INTERIOR SYSTEMS

Plumbing System

- Sanitize and flush fresh water system
- Check for leaks in all water lines and fittings
- Inspect water heater, flush tank, and check anode rod
- Test water pump operation and check filter
- Check toilet operation and seal
- Test all faucets and shower fixtures
- Verify proper drain trap operation
- Inspect grey and black tank valves for proper operation
- Check tank sensors for accuracy
- Install new water filter (if applicable)

Electrical System

- Inspect battery terminals for corrosion
- Check battery fluid levels (if not sealed)
- Load test batteries
- Test all 12V interior lights and fixtures
- Check 120V outlets with circuit tester
- Test GFCI outlets
- Verify converter/inverter operation
- Check fuses and circuit breakers
- Test carbon monoxide, smoke, and LP detectors
- Inspect all wiring for damage from rodents
- Test any aftermarket solar systems (if applicable)

Propane System

- Check propane tanks for recertification date
- Inspect propane lines and fittings for damage

- Test for propane leaks using soapy water solution
- Check regulator for proper operation
- Verify shut-off valve function
- Test stove/oven operation
- Check furnace operation and clean
- Test water heater on propane mode

Appliances

- Clean refrigerator coils
- Check refrigerator operation on both propane and electric
- Test air conditioner operation
- Replace A/C filter
- Test microwave/convection oven
- Verify range hood fan and light
- Check TV antenna/satellite system (if equipped)
- Test entertainment systems

INTERIOR COMFORT & SAFETY

General Interior

- Check for signs of leaks or water damage on ceiling and walls
- Test all windows for proper operation
- Lubricate window slides and latches
- Check condition of blinds and shades
- Inspect furniture for damage or wear
- Test bed mechanisms (if convertible)
- Check cabinet latches and hinges
- Verify all interior doors open and close properly
- Clean or replace furnace filter

Safety Equipment

- Check fire extinguisher pressure gauge
- Verify first aid kit is complete and medications not expired
- Replace batteries in smoke/CO/LP detectors
- Inspect emergency exit windows for proper operation
- Check roadside emergency kit supplies
- Verify spare tire is properly inflated and accessible
- Test jack and lug wrench for accessibility and function

PRE-TRIP PREPARATIONS

Documentation

- Update RV insurance
- Check registration expiration
- Verify roadside assistance coverage
- Update campground reservation information
- Ensure driver's license and vehicle registration are current

General Preparations

- Clean and vacuum interior thoroughly
- Wash exterior and apply protective wax
- Stock fresh batteries for flashlights and portable devices
- Update GPS maps and camping apps
- Plan travel route with low clearance considerations
- Schedule any needed service appointments
- Create a maintenance log to track completed items

TOWING VEHICLE CHECKS

Vehicle Inspection

- Check engine oil and all fluid levels
- Inspect brakes for wear
- Test battery condition
- Verify cooling system operation
- Check transmission fluid level and condition
- Inspect suspension components
- Test all lights, signals and brake lights
- Verify proper tire pressure and condition
- Check trailer brake controller operation
- Test towing mirrors and adjustments

Final Pre-Trip Check

- Verify weight distribution is properly set up
- Double-check hitch connection and pin/lock
- Attach safety chains in crossed pattern
- Connect breakaway switch cable
- Verify all lights working when connected
- Secure all loose items inside RV
- Check that steps are retracted
- Ensure TV antenna is down

- Verify all exterior compartments are locked
- Confirm slide-outs and awnings are fully retracted

Note: This checklist should be customized based on your specific RV model and equipment. Always consult your owner's manual for manufacturer-specific recommendations.

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