

Camper & Travel Trailer Checklist

Pre-trip, seasonal, winterization, and spring startup tasks for a travel trailer or camper. Print it, keep it in the trailer, and check things off as you go.

Before every trip

- ☐ Check tire pressure on all trailer tires and the spare (cold, at the sidewall rating)
- ☐ Check and torque lug nuts to 100 ft-lbs in a star pattern
- ☐ Test all lights: running, brake, turn signals, marker lights
- ☐ Test the trailer brakes and breakaway cable
- ☐ Inspect the hitch, coupler, safety chains, and jack
- ☐ Check propane level and that valves are closed for travel
- ☐ Confirm roof vents, awning, steps, and antenna are stowed
- ☐ Walk the perimeter: nothing left plugged in, chocked, or connected

Periodic maintenance (every few trips or season)

- ☐ Rotate tires; check date codes (replace at 5-7 years regardless of tread)
- ☐ Check brake pads / drums and adjust as needed
- ☐ Inspect all suspension components, shackles, and bolts for wear
- ☐ Repack wheel bearings (about every 12,000 miles or yearly)
- ☐ Treat the awning fabric with 303 protectant
- ☐ Inspect and reseal roof, seams, and window sealant
- ☐ Check the water heater anode rod
- ☐ Test smoke, LP, and CO detectors; replace batteries
- ☐ Clean the refrigerator cooling fins and furnace/water heater exterior vents

Winterization (fall)

- ☐ Dump and flush the black and grey tanks
- ☐ Drain the fresh water tank
- ☐ Drain the water heater tank (power off, pressure released, bypass set)
- ☐ Hook up an air hose at 20 psi and blow out all faucets, shower, toilet, and hose connectors
- ☐ Drain the low-point lines last
- ☐ Remove the water filter under the sink - order the replacement now for spring
- ☐ Add RV antifreeze to all drains: sinks, shower, and toilet

- ☐ Charge the battery to about 80%, then disconnect it
- ☐ Disconnect solar charging
- ☐ Prop the refrigerator and freezer doors open
- ☐ Prop the bathroom door open
- ☐ Store in the garage or under cover with the top vents open
- ☐ Remove food, linens, and anything that attracts rodents

De-winterize (spring)

- ☐ Connect the battery and solar; charge fully and check the water level if flooded cells
- ☐ Sanitize the fresh water tank and lines - see the note below
- ☐ Flush the fresh water tank until the bleach smell is gone
- ☐ Fill the propane tanks and check for leaks at the fittings
- ☐ Confirm the water heater drain plug and bypass valves are set back to normal
- ☐ Install a new water filter under the sink
- ☐ Pressure-test the system: run every faucet, the shower, and the toilet, and look for drips
- ☐ Re-check tire pressure and torque lug nuts before the first trip
- ☐ Test the fridge on propane and on shore power

How to sanitize the fresh water tank

Fill the fresh water tank with a bleach and water solution - about 1/4 cup of household bleach per 15 gallons of water. Run it through every line until you smell it at each faucet, let it sit about 12 hours, then drain and flush with clean water until the bleach smell is gone.

Write down what you own

Trailer VIN, year/make/model, tire size and load rating, axle and brake type, water heater and furnace model numbers, battery type and install date, and dealer warranty dates. Having it on hand turns a parts run into one phone call.