

PREPARATION CHECKLIST

✓ THINGS TO CHECK BEFORE YOUR TRIP

YOUR GUIDE TO PREPARING FOR YOUR CARAVAN TRIP

Before heading off on your next big adventure, it is critical that you give careful consideration to your tow vehicle and caravan before heading off.

Caravanning is where memories are created, to ensure safe and happy travels follow the below caravanning tips for safe and pleasant travels.



Things to check before your trip

- Know your weights of your car, caravan and their capacities.
- Know the dimensions of your tow vehicle and caravan – for example for the heights and widths of bridges, or by adding items on the rear such as bikes can breach the legal requirements.
- Check tow vehicle and caravan service history to see if its due to be completed or if heading on a long trip ensure both are serviced prior to leaving. Caravan industry Service and Repair companies are accredited under the 'Service Safe' accreditation program, to find out more visit www.gomakesomememories.com.au
- Check oil, water, brake fluid, the battery etc.
- Inspect all tyres carefully. If your trailer has not been used for a long time, the tyres may be soft. And remember, when towing heavily loaded trailers your vehicle's tyre pressures should be increased to the level recommended in the owner's handbook or on the tyre placard. If in doubt, contact your local tyre dealer. Tyres only have a certain life cycle:
 - 6-year-old tyres—All tyres (including spare tyres) that were manufactured more than six (6) years ago should be inspected for signs of age and deterioration by an authorised tyre specialist.
 - 10-year-old tyres— All tyres (including spare tyres) that were manufactured more than ten (10) years ago should be replaced with new tires, even if they appear to be usable from their external appearance and if the tread depth may have not reached the minimum wear out depth.



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Go make some memories.

Note:

- Ensure you check the warranty on tyres as typically it varies from 5 to 6 years.

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- Check that your vehicle and trailer's wheel nuts have been tightened to the manufacturer's specifications. To tighten the nuts, use a torque wrench to the torque recommended by the manufacturer (around 90ft lb or 125Nm). Wheel nuts should then be re-tightened after each 100kms for the first 400kms and checked every 1,000kms, at six-month intervals thereafter or after having your caravan serviced.
- Gas appliances and equipment has certain requirements to be checked at certain intervals, refer to your products information booklets or an appropriate service and repair company. Note; gas bottles have a 10-year life cycle.
- Ensure the coupling socket and ball match in size, and have been tightened to ensure a nice tight fit and the connection is not loose. Also ensure locking mechanism is locked.
- Check that the safety chains are correctly connected and with the appropriately rated connection e.g. rated D-Shackle.
- Check to ensure that the trailer brake and light connections are secure and that all lights work. Its best to check signals are working with a fellow traveller e.g. both indicators work, stop and tail taillights work. Tail lights should also active front and rear end outline markers and also side clearance lights if fitted.
- Check that the towing lights, number plates and registration labels of your caravan are clearly visible. Ensure items do not obscure these safety critical items.
- Disengage any reversing catch fitted to the trailer coupling (as used with over-ride brakes).
- Make one or two test stops to check that the brakes are working properly.
- Ensure all your items are secured when travelling – nothing like an awning flying open while travelling or opening the entry door to the caravan and noticing your items are all the

floor as they have not been secured before travelling.

- Ensure that your load is properly secured.
- Check that the roll-out awning is stored away and locked in the travel position.
- Check that the roof hatches, windows, doors and stone shields are secure.
- Ensure that items like gas cylinders, spare wheels, bumper bars are properly secured.
- If a camper or pop top ensure the roof is locked securely.



- While you are travelling ensure that the gas cylinders are turned off and that the refrigerator door is locked.
- Ensure that the rear vision mirrors on the tow vehicle are properly adjusted to ensure a clear view of the road to the rear of the vehicle or vehicle combination.
- Remove the jockey wheel from its clamp and store it in the boot of the car or RV, or if it is of the swivel mount variety, lock it in the travelling position.
- Check that the front and rear corner stabilisers are in the up position.
- Ensure that the hand brake of the trailer has been correctly released.
- Check that the electrical cord has been disconnected and stored away.
- Check that the TV antenna is in the travel position.