

BUYING CHECKLIST

- ✓ PURCHASE DECISIONS
- ✓ PRODUCT KNOWLEDGE
- ✓ OVERALL
- ✓ INTERNAL
- ✓ EXTERNAL

YOUR GUIDE TO BUYING THE PERFECT CARAVAN OR RV

If you are going to purchase a trailer or caravan, it can be confusing what to buy; on road, off road, big, medium, small, Caravan, Motorhome, Camper trailer and the list goes on. Then you have to take into consideration your vehicle's towing capacities, your caravans weight capacities and what you plan to do on your travelling journeys prior to making your purchase.

So, to help you the Caravan Industry Association of Victoria has developed this checklist, as a guide, to assist you in making that big decision.

There are a number of things you should consider when making your caravan or RV purchase decision like;

LIFESTYLE

- How do you intend to use your caravan, RV or tent? Short trips, family holidays, remote or rugged travel or extended retiree touring?
- How many people will need to be accommodated? Consider children, grandchildren, friends, growing or shrinking families.
- What level of comfort do you desire?
- What are you prepared to spend? Don't forget to take into account all the add-ons and extras which may be required.
- Is it worth hiring the product you are considering before committing financially?



REQUIREMENTS

- Would you be prepared to consider an alternative option should your budget be a limiting factor? For example, would you consider a tent trailer instead of a caravan which often allows more space for the kids and can contain similar luxuries to a caravan?

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- Would you consider spending more on added comfort and luxuries should you be travelling for extended periods or lash out and buy a bigger caravan or motorhome?
- Does your current vehicle have the towing capacity needed or would you need to purchase another vehicle?
- How many beds will you need and what type? Consider an end double bed, an island bed or single beds, air mattresses or swags.
- What do you require in a kitchen?
- Do you need a toilet and shower or would you prefer to use the facilities provided at a caravan, holiday or tourist park?
- How intensive would you like the set up to be e.g. can your caravan, RV or tent be set up quickly and with ease?
- Is your caravan or RV simple to position and level?
- Is the ceiling height sufficient for the people using the vehicle travelling?
- Is there enough storage compartments for your belongs? Be mindful caravans have weight restrictions which will limit the amount of belongs you can bring

DESIGNS

- Can it be stored easily when not in use?
- Are you after modern features or could you buy a used caravan?

THE CHECK LIST

PRODUCT KNOWLEDGE

- The manufacturer** - Does the manufacturer meets all Australian Standards and Australian Design Rules? Do they have the appropriate warranty departments, spare parts and repair facilities?
- Chassis and suspension** – Is the quality of the chassis and suspension built for roads you intend to travel on? The materials and construction, are critical to the longevity of your caravan or RV's life.
- Doors seals, ventilation and undercarriage** – Is the sealing appropriate to help prevent water and dust from entering your unit? This will save you a lot of time cleaning which you would like to prevent when on holidays.
- Awnings and annexes** – Do you need an awning or annexe area? These allow for more living space, shelter and with walls added can provide protection from the sun, wind and rain and provide a great deal of added comfort when travelling. It is important to consider that you have the right quality canvas for the purpose of its use, for example roofs require heavier duty canvas than walls. Remember, the extra weight awnings and annexes can add to your unit.
- Bedding** – How comfortable do you want your bed? A range of mattress types can be included like inner spring, foam mattresses.

- Optional Add-ons** – What add-ons do you need? A huge range of optional add-ons can be included when purchasing your caravan and RV, or fitted afterwards. It is important to keep track of the extra weight of all of the add-ons as this can affect longevity and safety.
- On or Off-Road Caravans and RV's** – What do you really want to do and is the product designed and warranted for this? Features of off-road RV's include: Chassis designed for off-road conditions, steel components treated to prevent corrosion, stronger framework built from timber, galvanised steel or aluminium, heavy duty suspension systems, the caravan or RV is raised slightly higher from the ground than on-road models, added protection on the undercarriage and body of the caravan, appropriate utilities and capacities e.g. water and gas.
- Safety Features** – Does the vehicle have the appropriate safety features? Things like smoke detectors, fire extinguisher, residual current device – also known as an earth leakage detector, gas leakage detector, water purifying filter, security locks on doors, window locks, a jack, spare tyres and tyre changing accessories.
- Drivers Licences** – What licence do you require to tow? Depending on the weight and size of your caravan or motorhome you may be required to obtain either a light rigid or medium rigid drivers licence.
- Place of purchase e.g. Dealerships** - Visit www.gomakesomememories.com.au for dealerships and upcoming caravan shows that can help you find the caravan or RV of your dreams.

OVERALL

- Does it suit your needs** (where do you want to travel e.g. off-road, caravan parks)
- Type** (what type suits your needs e.g. family van, caravan, pop top, motorhome, 5th wheeler)
- Weight** (does it match your tow vehicle and does it meet your requirements for payload e.g. the amount of weight for your belongings)
- Budget** (does the caravan or RV fit your budget)
- Design & Flair** (Is the design, colour combinations adequate for your needs)



INTERNAL

- Beds** (does the bed configuration suit and is there enough for your needs)
- Cooking Facilities** e.g. stove and/or oven (do they suit your needs, you may prefer external cooking facilities)
- Fridge** (Is it adequate for your needs)
- Entertainment System** (TV, radio, speakers etc.)
- Air-conditioning** (is the size of the unit going to be adequate for your needs)
- Bathroom facilities** (shower, toilet, washing machine. Do these meet your needs)
- Bench Space** (is it adequate for your needs)
- Seating Areas** (is it adequate for your needs)
- Furnishings** (what type do you prefer e.g. leather, cloth, wool, cotton etc.)
- Power** (are the power points, 12v points, USB points, TV points in the right locations/are there enough)



EXTERNAL

- Annexe** (suitable area, equipment and if required)
- Water Tanks** (is the capacity adequate for your needs)
- Windows** (are they the size and in the correct positions you want)
- Gas Bottles** (is the capacity to your needs)
- Chassis** (Suspensions, brakes, tyres, chassis design and strength to your needs)
- Solar Power** (do you need solar and batteries)
- Storage Areas** (do they meet your needs)
- Insulation** (what type is it and will it be suitable)
- External Table** (does it suit your needs)
- External cooking facilities** (does it suit your needs e.g. BBQ)

