



## Checklist 8

### Pre-Trip Checklist for your RV

Now that we have everything we need for our RV, and it's loaded and ready to go, let's talk about what to check before we leave on our trip. Do you know what two of the most common repairs made on RVs are? Repairs to the steps and the TV antenna. Damage to RV steps and TV antennas occur frequently and can be costly to repair. The main reason for these frequent repairs is because you forget to do a walk-around of the unit before leaving on a trip or prior to leaving the campground. The good news is both of these common repairs can be avoided by following a simple pre-trip checklist before moving the RV.

I will attempt to cover items that pertain to towable RVs as well as motorized RVs. Disregard the items that do not pertain to your RV.

#### Pre-Trip Checks Outside the RV

- Top off fuel and propane tanks.
- Check the air pressure in all tires. Check tires when cold before traveling.
- Check lug nuts on wheels. Discoloration and stains around lug nuts indicate they might be loose.
- Make sure all items in storage compartments are secure. Lock all outside compartments.
- Check bike rack and bikes for secure mounting if applicable.
- Make sure the power cord and/or water hose are disconnected and stored.
- Make sure all slide-outs are in and slide-out travel locks are securely in place.
- Make sure the TV antenna and/or satellite are down and stowed in the proper position for traveling.
- Check the awning, is it securely stored and all travel locks and knobs tight and locked.
- Close and secure rock guard (towables)
- Raise and/or remove all stabilizer jacks or hydraulic leveling jacks.
- Look under the RV for any indications of leaks (motorized) or anything out of the ordinary.
- Stow or retract the step.
- Fill the fresh water holding tank with enough potable water to get to your destination. Remember, water adds to the weight of the RV
- Check and secure the cap on the sewer outlet.
- Make sure roof latches are locked (pop-ups).

## Pre-Trip Checks Outside the RV Continued

- There is controversy over traveling with the LP gas turned on. For safety purposes I recommend turning off all LP gas appliances and turn the gas supply off at the tank or cylinders when traveling.
- Hitch up (towables) see hitching and unhitching checklists.
- Check all fluid levels (motorized) and tow vehicles.
- Remove and store wheel chocks.
- Check all running lights, turn signals, brake lights and headlights on the RV and/or tow vehicle.
- Check for up to date inspection/emissions and license plates.
- Check trailer brakes for proper operation.
- Make one final walk-around and check for anything you may have overlooked.

## Pre-Trip Checks Inside the RV

- Walk through the entire RV and secure all loose items that could move, fall or get damaged while traveling.
- Turn off all appliances gas & electric.
- Close all roof vents unless you have vent covers.
- Close all doors, drawers and cabinets
- Check for anything in the refrigerator that could spill. Lock the refrigerator and freezer doors.
- Turn off the 12-volt water pump.
- Close the range top cover.
- Turn off all lights, stereos, and other 12-volt devices that could drain the auxiliary battery.
- Close windows and secure blinds.
- Secure any large items such as TVs and computers that might move or fall while traveling.
- All weight in the RV should be distributed evenly. It is a good idea to have the RV weighed when it is fully loaded for travel to make sure you are not exceeding any weight ratings.
- Adjust your mirrors and seat, use your seat belts and have a safe journey