



115-Point RV Inspection Checklist

(New or Used RVs)

A practical, printable checklist to help RV buyers slow down, inspect the right things, and spot expensive problems before they buy. Use it for travel trailers, fifth wheels, Class C motorhomes, Class A motorhomes, and other RVs.

How to use this checklist

Plan for 2-3 hours minimum. Start appliances early because the refrigerator and A/C need time to show real performance. Bring a flashlight, multimeter, outlet tester, phone charger, gloves, notepad, and a ladder if you can safely use one.

Suggested marking system: Good = the item passed, Needs Attention = not a deal breaker but should be fixed or priced in, Major Issue = pause, negotiate hard, or get a professional opinion.

Quick Answer: What should you check when inspecting an RV?

Inspect every major system: electrical, plumbing, propane, structure, roof, exterior seals, appliances, tires, slides, safety equipment, and paperwork. The hidden issues that cost the most money are often small leaks, weak seals, loose wiring, and neglected maintenance.

Important: This checklist helps you inspect more carefully, but it does not replace a qualified RV inspector, mechanic, or technician - especially on expensive RVs or motorhomes.

Inspection Checklist

Check one box for each item and use the notes line to record problems, repair estimates, or negotiation points.

A. Engine & Generator (Motorhomes Only)

#	Inspection Item	Good	Needs Attention	Major Issue	Notes
1	Check engine battery voltage and terminal condition Pro tip: Low voltage can cause strange electrical issues throughout the RV.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2	Inspect automotive fuses and fuse panels Pro tip: Look for missing labels, blown fuses, or signs of overheating.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
3	Inspect belts and rubber components Pro tip: Cracking or glazing usually means replacement is coming soon.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
4	Check engine oil level and condition Pro tip: Milky, gritty, or burnt-smelling oil is a red flag.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
5	Check brake fluid level and color Pro tip: Dark or low brake fluid deserves a closer look.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
6	Check transmission fluid level and smell Pro tip: Burnt-smelling fluid can point to expensive problems.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
7	Check hydraulic fluid level where applicable Pro tip: Low fluid may indicate a leak in leveling or slide systems.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
8	Check power steering fluid Pro tip: Leaks around hoses or the pump should not be ignored.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
9	Check coolant level and condition Pro tip: Low coolant can signal leaks, overheating, or poor maintenance.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
10	Check windshield washer fluid and sprayers Pro tip: Small item, but useful on the drive home.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
11	Check generator oil level and condition Pro tip: Do this before running the generator.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
12	Inspect generator spark plug/service access Pro tip: Poor maintenance here often shows up under load.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
13	Inspect generator bay, wiring, insulation, and mounts Pro tip: Insulation breakdown or rodent damage is a serious warning sign.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
14	Start engine and listen at idle and under light throttle Pro tip: Hesitation, knocking, or warning lights should change the deal.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
15	Run generator under load Pro tip: Turn on A/C and appliances; weak generators usually reveal themselves fast.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

B. Electrical System

#	Inspection Item	Good	Needs Attention	Major Issue	Notes
16	Check house batteries and terminals Pro tip: Weak house batteries make many other systems act wrong.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
17	Inspect 120V breakers and 12V fuses Pro tip: Look for mismatched, unlabeled, or repeatedly tripped circuits.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
18	Inspect converter/charger operation Pro tip: Listen for fan operation and confirm it charges the batteries.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
19	Inspect inverter operation where equipped Pro tip: Verify it powers the outlets or devices it is supposed to.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
20	Test solar system and controller where equipped Pro tip: Confirm charging input in daylight.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
21	Test all 120V outlets with an outlet tester Pro tip: Open grounds or reversed polarity are safety issues.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
22	Test USB and 12V DC ports Pro tip: These are easy to overlook but annoying to fix later.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
23	Test GFCI reset and protected outlets Pro tip: If GFCI fails, treat it as a safety issue.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
24	Check DOT running, brake, and marker lighting Pro tip: Have someone watch while you test.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
25	Test interior lights and switches Pro tip: Flickering can indicate loose wiring or weak batteries.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
26	Test backup camera/monitor where equipped Pro tip: Repairing wiring can be time-consuming.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
27	Test refrigerator cooling on available power sources Pro tip: Give it at least 20-30 minutes before judging performance.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
28	Test A/C performance Pro tip: You should feel a noticeable temperature drop.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
29	Test furnace ignition and heat output Pro tip: Confirm warm air at vents, not just fan noise.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
30	Test central vacuum or specialty electrical features Pro tip: Optional systems still affect value.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
31	Inspect shore power cord, plug, and inlet Pro tip: Burn marks or melted plastic are major warning signs.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

C. Water System

#	Inspection Item	Good	Needs Attention	Major Issue	Notes
32	Inspect visible water lines and PEX fittings Pro tip: Dry, brittle, or stained areas may mean future leaks.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
33	Test water pump operation and pressure Pro tip: Listen for cycling when no faucets are open.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
34	Check kitchen sink hot/cold flow and drain Pro tip: Look below the cabinet while water is running.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
35	Check bathroom sink hot/cold flow and drain Pro tip: Watch for slow drains and hidden leaks.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
36	Check shower flow, drain, surround, and door/curtain Pro tip: Look for water escaping where it should not.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
37	Check exterior shower or spray port Pro tip: These can leak into compartments.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
38	Check toilet operation and bowl seal Pro tip: Water should hold in the bowl after flushing.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
39	Check washer/dryer and dishwasher hookups where equipped Pro tip: Unused hookups can still leak.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

D. Propane System

#	Inspection Item	Good	Needs Attention	Major Issue	Notes
40	Inspect propane lines and fittings Pro tip: Use soapy water only; bubbles mean a leak.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
41	Inspect tank mounts and hold-downs Pro tip: Tanks should not shift while traveling.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
42	Inspect removable propane tanks and dates Pro tip: Old or damaged cylinders may need recertification or replacement.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
43	Inspect built-in propane tank where equipped Pro tip: Check mounting, rust, valve condition, and access.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
44	Test propane gauge and appliance gas flow Pro tip: Confirm appliances light and stay lit.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

E. Holding Tanks & Water Connections

#	Inspection Item	Good	Needs Attention	Major Issue	Notes
45	Inspect freshwater tank area where visible Pro tip: Look for sagging, cracks, leaks, or missing supports.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

#	Inspection Item	Good	Needs Attention	Major Issue	Notes
46	Inspect gray tank area where visible Pro tip: Watch for leaks around fittings and valves.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
47	Inspect black tank area where visible Pro tip: Make sure valves open and close smoothly.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
48	Test black tank flush where equipped Pro tip: Confirm it flows without leaking into compartments.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
49	Inspect city water connection and check valve Pro tip: Leaks here can damage walls or compartments.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
50	Inspect sewer termination, cap, and valve handles Pro tip: Loose caps and stiff valves are common problems.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

F. Exterior Shell

#	Inspection Item	Good	Needs Attention	Major Issue	Notes
51	Inspect sidewalls for waves, bubbles, cracks, or discoloration Pro tip: Discoloration can mean water intrusion.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
52	Inspect front cap and seams Pro tip: Front cap leaks can travel farther than you think.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
53	Inspect hood or generator bay access panels Pro tip: Look for poor fit, missing hardware, and damage.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
54	Inspect windshield and large glass Pro tip: Replacement can cost thousands.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
55	Inspect rear cap and rear wall seams Pro tip: Look carefully around lights and trim.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
56	Inspect ladder mounting and roof access points Pro tip: Loose mounts can become leak points.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
57	Test entry door, screen door, and latches Pro tip: Doors should close without forcing them.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
58	Test manual or electric entry steps Pro tip: Steps should move smoothly and lock securely.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
59	Inspect awning fabric, arms, motor, and mounting Pro tip: Mold, tears, and bent arms can get expensive.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

G. Storage & Utility Bays

#	Inspection Item	Good	Needs Attention	Major Issue	Notes
60	Check all compartment doors Pro tip: They should open, close, and latch without rubbing.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
61	Check compartment alignment and hinges Pro tip: Misalignment can signal body flex or damage.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
62	Test gas struts and door supports Pro tip: Weak struts are common but still cost money.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
63	Inspect locks and keys Pro tip: Confirm every key works before closing.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
64	Inspect compartment seals Pro tip: Dry seals can let water into storage bays.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
65	Check bay lighting and switches Pro tip: A simple test now saves frustration later.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
66	Inspect storage bays for water stains, odors, or damage Pro tip: Musty smells deserve extra attention.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

H. Roof & A/C

#	Inspection Item	Good	Needs Attention	Major Issue	Notes
67	Check roof surface for soft spots Pro tip: Soft areas can mean rot or hidden water damage.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
68	Inspect roof seals around every penetration Pro tip: Most expensive RV problems start as small seal failures.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
69	Inspect roof vents and vent lids Pro tip: Brittle lids can crack in sunlight.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
70	Inspect antennas, satellite, or Wi-Fi equipment Pro tip: Extra roof gear means extra leak points.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
71	Inspect A/C shroud for cracks or missing screws Pro tip: A damaged shroud can lead to bigger issues.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
72	Check A/C gasket/seal area for signs of leaks Pro tip: Interior stains near A/C are a warning sign.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
73	Inspect visible roof wiring or solar wiring Pro tip: Loose wiring can chafe or leak at entry points.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
74	Inspect coils where accessible Pro tip: Dirty coils hurt performance.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
75	Check A/C filter and airflow Pro tip: Poor airflow can make a good unit seem bad.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

#	Inspection Item	Good	Needs Attention	Major Issue	Notes
76	Listen for compressor and fan operation Pro tip: A failing A/C is not cheap to replace.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

I. Hitch & Towing

#	Inspection Item	Good	Needs Attention	Major Issue	Notes
77	Inspect receiver hitch or tow bar setup Pro tip: Look for cracks, rust, or bent metal.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
78	Inspect kingpin, coupler, or hitch head Pro tip: Wear or slop here is a safety issue.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
79	Check safety chains or cables Pro tip: Confirm proper rating and attachment points.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
80	Inspect sway control or weight-distribution hardware Pro tip: Missing parts can change towing safety.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
81	Test tongue jack or landing gear operation Pro tip: Listen for strain or slipping.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
82	Inspect umbilical cord and plug Pro tip: Damaged cords cause lighting and brake problems.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
83	Test brake lights Pro tip: Do this connected to the tow vehicle if possible.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
84	Test turn signals Pro tip: Confirm left and right are correct.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
85	Test hazard and reverse lights Pro tip: Reverse lights are commonly missed.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
86	Test clearance and marker lights Pro tip: One dead marker light can point to wiring issues.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

J. Slideouts

#	Inspection Item	Good	Needs Attention	Major Issue	Notes
87	Test each slideout fully in and out Pro tip: Grinding, binding, or twisting is not normal.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
88	Locate and verify manual override information Pro tip: You need to know this before an emergency.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
89	Inspect slide toppers or awnings where equipped Pro tip: Torn fabric can hold water and debris.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

#	Inspection Item	Good	Needs Attention	Major Issue	Notes
90	Inspect slide windows, trim, and corners Pro tip: Corners are common leak points.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
91	Inspect inner and outer slide seals Pro tip: Dry or torn seals usually mean leaks are coming.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

K. Wheels, Brakes & Underbelly

#	Inspection Item	Good	Needs Attention	Major Issue	Notes
92	Inspect tires for age, tread, cracks, and matching load rating Pro tip: Check date code, not just tread depth.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
93	Inspect rims, lug nuts, and valve stems Pro tip: Look for cracks, rust, missing caps, or damage.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
94	Check brakes and brake wiring where visible Pro tip: Brake problems are safety problems.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
95	Inspect suspension, springs, shackles, and hangers Pro tip: Worn parts can ruin tires and towing stability.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
96	Inspect axles for bends or unusual tire wear Pro tip: A bent axle can mean the RV was overloaded.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
97	Inspect underbelly covering, frame, and signs of leaks Pro tip: Sagging or patched areas need explanation.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

L. Stabilizer Jacks & Leveling

#	Inspection Item	Good	Needs Attention	Major Issue	Notes
98	Test stabilizer jacks or scissor jacks Pro tip: They should move smoothly and hold position.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
99	Test auto-leveling system where equipped Pro tip: Watch for error messages or uneven movement.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
100	Check hydraulic lines, cylinders, and pump area Pro tip: Fluid leaks can be expensive.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
101	Inspect jack pads, feet, and mounting points Pro tip: Bent or loose mounts are a red flag.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

M. Ceiling

#	Inspection Item	Good	Needs Attention	Major Issue	Notes
102	Inspect ceiling panels for stains, bubbles, or ripples Pro tip: Stains can mean past or current leaks.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
103	Inspect ceiling molding and trim Pro tip: Loose trim can hide movement or water damage.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
104	Inspect vents, fans, and fan lids from inside Pro tip: Run fans and look for cracked plastic.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
105	Check A/C vents and duct airflow Pro tip: Weak airflow in one area may mean duct problems.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

N. Flooring

#	Inspection Item	Good	Needs Attention	Major Issue	Notes
106	Inspect flooring for soft spots, lifting, or stains Pro tip: Soft spots often mean water damage underneath.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
107	Inspect floor heat ducts and registers Pro tip: Look for broken vents, debris, or weak airflow.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

O. Windows

#	Inspection Item	Good	Needs Attention	Major Issue	Notes
108	Inspect window treatments, shades, and blinds Pro tip: Broken shades are common and costly to replace.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
109	Check window seals and frames Pro tip: Feel for drafts and look for stains below windows.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
110	Test window operation and emergency exits Pro tip: Every window should open, close, and latch correctly.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

P. Walls, Cabinets, Furniture, Appliances & Safety

#	Inspection Item	Good	Needs Attention	Major Issue	Notes
111	Inspect walls for stains, soft spots, bubbles, or loose panels Pro tip: Water damage often shows up on walls before floors.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
112	Inspect cabinets, drawers, hinges, and latches Pro tip: Loose cabinetry can show poor construction or hard travel.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
113	Inspect furniture, beds, dinette, and sleeping areas Pro tip: Make sure the layout actually works for your family.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

#	Inspection Item	Good	Needs Attention	Major Issue	Notes
114	Test major appliances and note model/condition Pro tip: Appliances are expensive, so verify operation before buying.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
115	Check smoke, carbon monoxide, propane detectors, and fire extinguisher Pro tip: Safety equipment should be current and working.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Buyer Notes & Decision Page

Major issues found
Items to repair before delivery
Items to use in negotiation
Questions for seller or dealer
Estimated repair costs
Final decision notes

Mike's honest take

Do not rush. Do not trust a dealer inspection blindly. If you are spending serious money - especially on a motorhome or a used RV - a professional inspection can be worth every penny. The small stuff is usually where the big repairs begin.

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