

Getting Started

Define RV goals

How do you plan to use your RV? Is it for weekend outings, longer vacations, or as a full timer?

Become familiar with RV types

Take some time to review each RV type. No need to research each type in detail at this point—that comes later. Don't forget to make a pros and cons list.

· Motorhome· Campervan· Converted Bus· Fifth Wheel· Single Axle Caravan· Dual Axle Caravan· Folding Trailer

Review issues important to different RV lifestyles

All RVing lifestyles have many things in common, yet each has its own special requirements.

Learn about the differences and add them to your pros and cons list

List RV amenities

Create a list of amenities that you would like to have in an RV based on your selected lifestyle.

Divide the list into "must have" and "optional."

Create a budget

At this point you should have a rough idea of your desired RV lifestyle and the specifics are coming into focus. Now is the time to create a budget. Knowing what you are able and willing to afford will save you precious time by narrowing down your choices.

Rent various RV types.

In the following steps you need to make decisions on the type and size of the RV. Consider renting several RV types to help you decide. Living in an RV for a few days will give you insights that you can not get on the sales lot.

Choose RV type

Review your RV Type, lifestyle and amenities checklist and then decide which one will suit your needs best.

Choose RV size

After choosing the RV type, determine the size based on your needs. Research all relevant weights. For large RV's also review the LTSA Driver's License Requirements.

Tow vehicle type and size

If you chose a towable RV such as a Caravan or fifth wheel, determine the size of vehicle required to tow it.

Choose RV manufacturers to consider

Choose the RV manufacturers that meet your criteria. Not all manufacturers are the same.

Choose RV models to consider

Choose a small number of RV models that meet your needs from each manufacturer selected previously.

Request RV insurance quotes

Request one or more preliminary RV insurance quotes using the likely RV and truck models you are considering. Add the preliminary insurance premiums to your budget. After you select the exact RV model, you should request quotes from multiple insurance companies.

If you request a quotation from your existing insurance agent, be aware that they may or may not have specialized RV insurance.

Determine fair market value

Before heading out to buy, do some research to determine the fair market value of each RV model you selected.

Do this even if you are planning to buy a new unit.

Inspect before buying new or used

When you find an RV that you are interested in, have it thoroughly inspected before signing any papers.

Practice run

Set up your RV as soon after buying it as possible. If you do not have immediate travel plans, find the nearest RV park and set up your unit there. Live in your new RV a few days to find potential problems before you head out on your big trip.

Join the community

By now you have gained a lot of knowledge about RV's and the RV lifestyle. Join the RV community to further your knowledge, find helpful information, and share your experiences with others.

Next steps:

Research RV clubs to join Join online discussion groups to share ideas

Most importantly of all:

**ENJOY YOURSELF WHEREVER YOU TRAVEL
IN CLEAN GREEN NEW ZEALAND**