

The RV Fam Adventure Pre-Trip Checklist

Everything families, first-time RVers, and dog owners should check before pulling away. Mark what applies to your trip, add your rig-specific essentials, and enjoy a calmer departure.

1. Packing Checklist

PACK • STAGE • LOAD

Kitchen, Meals & Camp Cooking

- ☐ Trip meals planned; groceries and travel snacks packed
- ☐ Cooler, ice, bottled water, and refillable drink bottles
- ☐ Coffee maker or percolator, coffee, mugs, and filters
- ☐ Cookware, cast-iron skillet, cutting board, and knives
- ☐ Utensils, spatulas, tongs, can opener, and roasting sticks
- ☐ Blackstone or grill, fuel, cooking oil, and lighter
- ☐ Plates, cups, foil, storage containers, and resealable bags
- ☐ Dish soap, sponge, drying rack, paper towels, and trash bags

Clothing, Bathroom & Personal Care

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ Weather-ready outfits | ☐ Extra socks and underwear |
| ☐ Rain jackets | ☐ Light layers or hoodies |
| ☐ Swimwear and hats | ☐ Sunglasses |
| ☐ Waterproof shoes | ☐ Camp or shower shoes |
| ☐ Sunscreen | ☐ Bug spray |
| ☐ Toiletries | ☐ Medications |
| ☐ Face wipes | ☐ Quick-dry towels |
| ☐ RV-safe toilet paper | ☐ Tank treatment |

Sleeping & Inside-the-Camper Comfort

- ☐ Bedding, pillows, blankets, and seasonal extras
- ☐ Small fan or approved heater for expected conditions
- ☐ Laundry hamper, hooks, organizers, and interior doormat
- ☐ Phone, tablet, camera, and device charging cables
- ☐ Board games, cards, books, and rainy-day activities

Kids & Family Essentials

- ☐ Child's favorite comfort item and bedtime supplies
- ☐ Age-appropriate toys, games, pool gear, and floaties
- ☐ Snacks, juice boxes, spill-proof cup, and wet bag
- ☐ Child medications, thermometer, and first-aid supplies
- ☐ Car-seat or booster installation checked
- ☐ Emergency contacts and campground information saved

Dogs & Pet Travel

- ☐ Food for the full trip plus extra; treats and medications
- ☐ Food bowls and collapsible travel-water bowls
- ☐ Leashes, harnesses, tie-out, and leash hooks
- ☐ Waste bags and campground-cleanup supplies
- ☐ Pet first-aid kit and vaccination or vet information
- ☐ Cooling mat, portable fan, and paw protection
- ☐ Dog towels, face or paw wipes, and washable rugs
- ☐ Grooming brush, lint rollers, and cordless vacuum
- ☐ Pet seat covers, extra blanket, and replacement toy

Outdoor Campsite & Family Fun

- ☐ Camp chairs, folding table, outdoor mat, and doormat
- ☐ Canopy, approved awning accessories, and ground stakes
- ☐ Lanterns or dimmable campsite lights
- ☐ Hammock, games, bikes, and helmets as needed
- ☐ Firewood or campfire supplies where permitted
- ☐ Locking-lid trash container or secure trash plan

Road-tested reminder: Keep rain jackets, dog towels, medications, first aid, flashlights, and one change of clothes easy to reach - not buried behind everything else.

Make This Checklist Yours

Every family, dog, and RV has its own must-haves. Add the special items that make your crew comfortable, calm, and ready for fun.

- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____

QUICK TIP

Pack a small "last in, first out" basket for medicine, chargers, pet supplies, and the first-night essentials.



THE RV FAM ADVENTURE PRE-TRIP CHECKLIST

2. Trailer Setup & Safety Checklist

HOOKUPS • TOOLS • SAFE SETUP

Fresh-Water Hookup

- ☐ Potable-water hose
- ☐ Water-pressure regulator
- ☐ 90-degree water elbow
- ☐ Inline water filter
- ☐ Spare O-ring hose washers and caps
- ☐ Y-splitter or shutoff valve if used
- ☐ Rubber gloves dedicated to hookups
- ☐ Check every connection for leaks

Electrical Hookup

- ☐ Correct 30-amp or 50-amp cord
- ☐ RV-rated extension cord sized for the load
- ☐ Correct amp adapter or dogbone
- ☐ Electrical management system or surge protector
- ☐ Plugs and cable inspected for heat or damage
- ☐ Pedestal breaker off before connecting
- ☐ Pedestal tested before powering the camper

Leveling, Stabilizing & Sewer

- ☐ Leveling blocks and wheel chocks
- ☐ Jack pads for soft, hot, or uneven surfaces
- ☐ Stabilizer-jack handle or drill adapter
- ☐ Sewer hose, supports, clear elbow, and site adapter
- ☐ Spare sewer gasket, end caps, and storage bin
- ☐ Dedicated rubber gloves and disinfecting supplies
- ☐ Tank valves closed before removing caps

Toolbox, Lighting & Protective Gear

- ☐ Toolbox with multiple interchangeable driver bits
- ☐ Socket set with the sizes used on your rig
- ☐ Screwdrivers, pliers, adjustable wrench, and utility knife
- ☐ Duct tape, electrical tape, zip ties, and spare fasteners
- ☐ Spare fuses, approved bulbs, and hose clamps
- ☐ Flashlights - more than one
- ☐ Headlamps for hands-free setup and breakdown
- ☐ Plenty of fresh batteries in the correct sizes
- ☐ Rubber gloves for wet or sanitation work
- ☐ Leather work gloves for hitching and handling gear

Road & Emergency Safety

- ☐ Fire extinguisher present, charged, and in date
- ☐ Smoke, carbon-monoxide, and LP alarms tested
- ☐ First-aid kits for people and pets
- ☐ Tire gauge and portable air compressor
- ☐ Warning triangles or roadside markers
- ☐ Weather radio or severe-weather alerts enabled
- ☐ Spare tire, jack, lug tool, and roadside plan confirmed
- ☐ Emergency numbers and campground address saved

Safe Campsite Setup Sequence

- ☐ 1 Walk the site; check branches, slope, utilities, fire ring, and slide clearance
- ☐ 2 Position and level the trailer side to side
- ☐ 3 Chock wheels before unhitching
- ☐ 4 Unhitch, level front to back, then lower stabilizers onto jack pads
- ☐ 5 Connect electric, water, and sewer using your rig's approved order
- ☐ 6 Check hookups, slides, awning clearance, alarms, and indoor systems

Safety note: Your owner's manuals, tow-vehicle limits, equipment ratings, campground rules, and local requirements always take priority over a general checklist.

Your Rig, Your Routine

Add the tools, adapters, setup steps, and campground lessons that are specific to your trailer.

- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____

FAMILY SETUP TRICK

Give everyone a zone. One adult handles hookups, one handles the inside, and kids get safe jobs like counting chairs or collecting shoes.

DON'T FORGET

Start a "replace before next trip" list now - empty batteries, missing washers, used first-aid items, and low propane are easier to fix at home.

Checked by _____ Campsite _____

3. Departure-Day Walkaround

Inside the Trailer

- ☐ People and pets accounted for before moving
- ☐ Loose items stowed; counters, tables, and floors clear
- ☐ Cabinets, drawers, shower door, and interior doors latched
- ☐ Refrigerator and freezer fully closed and secured
- ☐ Windows, roof vents, blinds, and TV mounts secured
- ☐ Slide rooms clear inside; no items caught in travel path
- ☐ Water pump, water heater, furnace, and appliances set for travel
- ☐ Propane appliances off; travel-valve position confirmed for your rig and route
- ☐ Thermostat and pet travel comfort plan confirmed
- ☐ Entry door locked; camper keys accessible

Exterior Campsite Sweep

- ☐ Awning fully retracted and locked; exterior lights off
- ☐ Slides fully retracted; seals and sides visually checked
- ☐ Steps, handrails, antennas, and exterior accessories stowed
- ☐ Electric disconnected; cord, adapter, and surge protector packed
- ☐ Water disconnected; hose, regulator, elbow, and filter packed
- ☐ Sewer valves closed; hose drained, capped, and packed
- ☐ Stabilizer jacks fully retracted; jack pads collected
- ☐ Storage doors, propane cover, and exterior hatches latched
- ☐ Chairs, mat, grill, toys, pet gear, trash, and fire-area items packed
- ☐ Look above, below, behind, and on both sides of the trailer

Family habit: One adult completes the walkaround without interruption; the second adult performs a separate final scan. Slow is faster than returning for forgotten gear.

Hitch, Tires & Tow Vehicle

- ☐ Coupler fully seated, latched, pinned, and locked
- ☐ Weight-distribution or sway-control equipment secured
- ☐ Safety chains crossed and attached to rated points
- ☐ Breakaway cable attached separately with proper slack
- ☐ Seven-way electrical plug seated and secured
- ☐ Tongue jack fully raised; jack foot or block packed
- ☐ Trailer and tow-vehicle tire pressures checked cold
- ☐ Tires, valve stems, lug nuts, and spare visually checked
- ☐ Mirrors adjusted; brake controller and tow mode set
- ☐ Headlights, running lights, turn signals, and brake lights tested

Before Pulling Away

- ☐ Wheel chocks removed last and accounted for
- ☐ Final 360-degree walkaround completed
- ☐ Route checked for height, weight, construction, fuel, and weather
- ☐ Phones charged; directions and campground contact saved
- ☐ Wallet, licenses, registration, insurance, and reservations accessible
- ☐ Children and pets safely restrained for travel
- ☐ Perform a slow pull test and listen for unusual movement
- ☐ Check campsite and mirrors once more before entering the road

First Stop Recheck

- ☐ Stop safely after the first 5-10 miles
- ☐ Recheck coupler, chains, breakaway cable, and seven-way plug
- ☐ Inspect tires and wheels for unusual heat, smell, or movement
- ☐ Confirm doors, hatches, awning, steps, and cargo remain secure
- ☐ Repeat checks after rough roads, fuel stops, or long breaks

One Last Look - Your Personal Reminders

Write down the easy-to-miss items for your exact rig. Read these lines out loud before anyone says, "Let's roll!"

- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____

SAY IT OUT LOUD

Awning. Antennas. Steps. Slides. Locks. Lights. Chocks. Saying the short list together catches surprising mistakes.

DOG CO-PILOT CHECK

Fresh water within reach, leash by the door, ID tags current, and every pet safely restrained before moving.

MAKE IT A WIN

Let the kids call "all clear" after their safe jobs are done. A cheerful routine builds capable future campers.