

PRACTICAL RV BASICS

RV MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE - A planning guide for routine owner inspections

Frequent Checks During the Camping Season

RV: _____ Year: _____ Odometer / travel distance: _____

BEFORE EVERY TRIP

- ☐ Check tire pressure when tires are cold; inspect tread, sidewalls and valve stems.
- ☐ Confirm wheel fastener torque according to the chassis, axle or wheel manufacturer schedule.
- ☐ Inspect hitch, coupler or pin box, safety chains, breakaway system and electrical connection.
- ☐ Test brakes, exterior lights, mirrors and cameras as equipped.
- ☐ Check roof-mounted items, awning, steps, doors, windows, vents and compartments are secured.
- ☐ Look beneath the RV for leaks, hanging parts or visible chassis and suspension concerns.
- ☐ Test smoke, carbon-monoxide and propane alarms; confirm the fire extinguisher is accessible.
- ☐ Secure interior doors, loose items, appliances and slide-outs for travel.

MONTHLY WHILE IN USE

- ☐ Inspect roof seams, vents, skylights, windows, doors, mouldings and exterior penetrations.
- ☐ Check accessible plumbing fittings, pump area, water heater and compartments for leaks.
- ☐ Inspect battery mounting and terminals; check electrolyte only on serviceable flooded batteries.
- ☐ Clean air-conditioner return-air filters and inspect visible vents for blockage.
- ☐ Inspect slide-out seals, tracks and mechanisms; use only the approved maintenance products.
- ☐ Inspect awning fabric, arms, mounts and travel locks for wear or damage.
- ☐ Check propane cylinders or tank mounting and accessible hoses for obvious damage.
- ☐ Exercise emergency exits and verify nothing blocks their operation.

AFTER EVERY TRIP

- ☐ Walk around the RV and note new damage, loose trim, sealant separation or fluid leaks.
- ☐ Check the interior, cabinets and storage compartments for moisture or shifted contents.
- ☐ Empty waste tanks as appropriate and store wastewater equipment clean and secure.
- ☐ Clean and dry awning fabric before extended storage; never roll it up wet for long periods.
- ☐ Remove food, rubbish and damp items that can attract pests or create mould.
- ☐ Recharge batteries as required and record problems that appeared during the trip.

MONTHLY DURING STORAGE

- ☐ Inspect for water intrusion, condensation, mould, pest activity and unusual odours.
- ☐ Check the roof, cover and exterior after strong wind, heavy rain or snow.
- ☐ Monitor battery state of charge and follow the battery manufacturer storage procedure.
- ☐ Check tire condition and RV position; follow approved long-term storage practices.
- ☐ Confirm vents and openings remain configured for safe ventilation and pest prevention.
- ☐ Investigate stains, soft materials, alarm chirps or fluid beneath the RV promptly.

USE THE CORRECT SCHEDULE

- These intervals are a planning guide. The RV, chassis and component manufacturers schedules take priority.
- Inspect more often after severe weather, rough-road travel, heavy use or a known impact.

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Seasonal and Semi-Annual Maintenance

Season: _____ Date completed: _____ Next review: _____

BEGINNING OF SEASON

- ☐ Complete the full de-winterizing procedure and inspect carefully for freeze damage.
- ☐ Sanitize the potable-water system according to the RV manufacturer procedure.
- ☐ Inspect and reseal exterior joints only with products compatible with each surface.
- ☐ Test the water pump, regulated city-water connection, drains, toilet and holding-tank valves.
- ☐ Fill the water heater fully and purge air before enabling any heating source.
- ☐ Test 12-volt and 120-volt systems, GFCI protection, converter or charger and solar equipment.
- ☐ Arrange required propane system inspection and testing by a qualified technician.
- ☐ Test all appliances, safety alarms, emergency exits and the fire extinguisher.

END OF SEASON

- ☐ Complete the full winterizing checklist before freezing temperatures arrive.
- ☐ Drain and protect every water-bearing appliance, accessory and exterior connection.
- ☐ Empty and rinse holding tanks at an approved facility.
- ☐ Clean and dry the refrigerator and interior; remove perishables and freeze-sensitive products.
- ☐ Inspect and prepare batteries according to their type and storage conditions.
- ☐ Inspect the roof, exterior seals, awning and openings before covering or storing the RV.
- ☐ Protect against pests without blocking required appliance or safety ventilation.
- ☐ Record unresolved repairs so they are not forgotten before the next season.

MID-SEASON REVIEW

- ☐ Inspect roof and exterior sealants closely, especially around high-movement components.
- ☐ Clean roof and sidewall surfaces using material-compatible products.
- ☐ Clean air-conditioner filters; inspect accessible coils and drains as the manufacturer allows.
- ☐ Inspect refrigerator and appliance exterior vents for debris, nests, soot or damage.
- ☐ Inspect steps, entry doors, locks, hinges, slide seals and awning components.
- ☐ Check battery condition, connections, charging performance and compartment ventilation.
- ☐ Inspect water-pump strainer and accessible fresh-water hoses and fittings.
- ☐ Review tires for abnormal wear that may indicate alignment, suspension or inflation concerns.

EVERY SIX MONTHS OR AS SPECIFIED

- ☐ Inspect or service brakes, bearings, axles and suspension at the manufacturer interval.
- ☐ Inspect chassis, hitch, coupler, pin box and mounting hardware for wear or damage.
- ☐ Service slide-out and levelling systems only as their manufacturers direct.
- ☐ Inspect generator oil, filter, exhaust and operating hours; complete scheduled service.
- ☐ Test battery capacity or condition when performance has declined.
- ☐ Review detector manufacture dates and replace units at the end of their service life.
- ☐ Check service bulletins, recalls and warranty-required inspections for the RV and components.

STOP AND OBTAIN QUALIFIED HELP

- Do not use a system if you smell propane, see soot, smoke or sparks, or find overheated wiring.
- Arrange professional inspection for brakes, structural damage, significant leaks or recurring electrical faults.

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Annual Service and Maintenance Record

Service year: _____ Date: _____ Mileage / travel distance: _____

ANNUAL RV SYSTEMS REVIEW

- ☐ Have propane pressure, regulator operation and leak integrity checked as required locally.
- ☐ Have appliance combustion and ventilation inspected when required or performance is abnormal.
- ☐ Inspect the complete roof and exterior; repair compatible sealants before water enters.
- ☐ Service the water heater; flush sediment and inspect the anode rod when equipped.
- ☐ Inspect fresh-water, waste-water and winterizing systems for leaks, damage and proper operation.
- ☐ Service the air conditioner, furnace, refrigerator and generator at their specified intervals.
- ☐ Inspect electrical panels, shore-power equipment and accessible connections for heat damage.
- ☐ Review alarm and fire-extinguisher dates, operation and replacement requirements.

SERVICE RECORD

- ☐ Technician / business: _____
- ☐ Work order or receipt number: _____
- ☐ Work completed: _____
- ☐ _____
- ☐ Parts or fluids used: _____
- ☐ Repairs still required: _____
- ☐ Next service due by date: _____ Distance / hours: _____

RUNNING GEAR AND STRUCTURE

- ☐ Complete chassis or tow-vehicle service according to mileage, time and operating conditions.
- ☐ Inspect and service brakes, wheel bearings, axles and suspension as specified.
- ☐ Inspect tires for age, cracking, repairs, abnormal wear, load rating and replacement needs.
- ☐ Inspect wheels and torque fasteners using the correct sequence and specification.
- ☐ Inspect frame, hitch receiver, coupler, pin box, jacks and levelling equipment.
- ☐ Correct alignment, brake, bearing or structural concerns through qualified service.

OWNER RECORDS AND PLANNING

- ☐ Update the maintenance log with dates, distance, generator hours and work performed.
- ☐ Save receipts, inspection reports, photographs and warranty correspondence.
- ☐ Review each component manual for revised maintenance or storage requirements.
- ☐ Confirm registration, insurance and roadside-assistance information is current.
- ☐ Restock spare fuses, detector batteries, emergency supplies and approved maintenance products.
- ☐ Plan repairs early so the RV is not delayed at the beginning of the next travel season.

IMPORTANT

- Time-based, distance-based and operating-hour schedules may all apply. Use whichever limit occurs first.
- Documented maintenance supports safe operation, warranty discussions and future resale.