

During the Trip

During a **caravan trip**, it's important to stay on top of both the caravan's performance and your own safety and comfort. Here's a checklist to follow to ensure everything runs smoothly:

1. Before Hitting the Road Each Day

- ☐ **Towing Connection:**
 - Double-check the hitch and ensure it's secure.
 - Confirm the safety chains are correctly connected and not dragging.
 - Test that the electrical connection for lights and brakes is working.
- ☐ **Tyres and Wheels:**
 - Check the caravan's Tyres (including spare) for proper inflation.
 - Inspect Tyres for any visible damage (wear, cracks, bulges).
 - Torque wheel nuts.
- ☐ **Lights:**
 - Test all caravan lights (brake lights, turn signals, reverse lights, running lights).
- ☐ **Water & Plumbing:**
 - Ensure the water tank is filled and the water pump is working.
 - Check for any leaks in the pipes or taps.

2. While Driving

- ☐ **Speed Limits:**
 - Be aware of and adhere to speed limits for vehicles towing caravans.
 - Ensure the tow vehicle and caravan's weight are within the legal limits.
- ☐ **Towing Stability:**
 - Pay attention to how the caravan feels while towing. If it's swaying, stop and check the load distribution or tire pressure.
- ☐ **Brakes:**
 - Ensure the caravan's brakes are functioning. Test them occasionally by lightly pressing the brake pedal.
- ☐ **Mirrors & Visibility:**
 - Adjust mirrors for maximum visibility.
 - Ensure you can see the rear of the caravan and both sides clearly.

3. Daily Caravan Setup

- ☐ **Levelling:**
 - When stopping, use leveling blocks or wedges to ensure the caravan is level.
 - Adjust the jockey wheel to lift the front of the caravan and secure the tow vehicle.
- ☐ **Unhitching:**
 - Before unhitching, make sure the caravan's handbrake is engaged.
 - Lower the stabilizing legs to keep the caravan stable while unhitched.
- ☐ **Power:**
 - Connect the caravan to electricity (if available) and test all appliances (lights, fridge, heater).
 - Turn off the gas and electricity when not in use to prevent accidents.
- ☐ **Water:**
 - Connect the caravan to an external water supply (if available) and check for leaks.
 - Ensure that all taps, the shower, and toilet are functioning properly.

4. While Onsite

- ☐ **Airflow & Ventilation:**
 - Open windows and vents to maintain proper airflow, especially if the weather is humid or warm.
 - Keep vents clear of debris and ensure they can close properly if it rains.
- ☐ **Battery Check:**
 - Check the caravan's battery and recharge it if necessary. Solar panels can help keep it charged.
- ☐ **Gas System:**
 - Check that the gas bottles are full and securely attached.
 - Turn off gas supply when not in use and test appliances (stove, fridge, heater) before use.

5. Overnight

- ☐ **Security:**
 - Lock all doors and windows.
 - Set up any additional security systems (alarms, wheel locks, etc.).
- ☐ **Safety Checks:**
 - Check that smoke and carbon monoxide detectors are working.
 - Keep a fire extinguisher within easy reach and make sure it's accessible.
- ☐ **Night Comfort:**
 - Set the heating or cooling to a comfortable temperature, if needed.
 - Ensure all lights are turned off to conserve power.

6. Mid-Trip Caravan Maintenance

- ☐ **Suspension & Axles:**
 - Regularly check the suspension and axles for signs of wear or damage.
 - Tighten any loose nuts or bolts on the caravan frame or suspension.
- ☐ **Brakes:**
 - Test the brakes periodically, especially if you notice any unusual sounds or braking difficulty.
- ☐ **Water System:**
 - Monitor the water tank levels and top up when necessary.
 - Empty the wastewater tank regularly to prevent odours and maintain hygiene.
- ☐ **Tire Pressure:**
 - Check tire pressure on both the caravan and tow vehicle at regular intervals.
 - Keep an eye on the tread and ensure no issues are developing.
- ☐ **Refrigerator & Appliances:**
 - Keep an eye on your fridge and other appliances to ensure they are working properly.
 - If running on gas, check that the gas level is not running low.

7. Stop & Check Every Few Hours

- ☐ **Towing Connection:**
 - Stop and check that the hitch and safety chains are still secure.
 - Verify that the electrical connection is working correctly.
- ☐ **Tyres:**
 - Check tire temperature and pressure regularly, especially after long stretches of driving.
- ☐ **Load Distribution:**

- Double-check that your load inside the caravan is balanced, with heavier items stored low and over the axle.
- ☐ **Fuel & Gas:**
 - Ensure the fuel in your tow vehicle is adequate and stop to refuel if necessary.
 - Check your gas bottles to make sure they will last for the next leg of the journey.

8. Before Leaving a Campsite or Stop

- ☐ **Pack Up:**
 - Disconnect any utilities (water, electricity) and ensure all appliances are turned off.
 - Empty any waste tanks and clean up the area.
- ☐ **Stabiliser Legs:**
 - Ensure stabilizing legs are retracted and secured properly.
- ☐ **Awning:**
 - Make sure the awning is properly packed away and secured to prevent damage during travel.
- ☐ **Final Walkaround:**
 - Perform a final walkaround to ensure nothing has been left behind and all systems are properly secured.

Disclaimer

This material is provided for the purposes of general information and understanding and should be used as a guide only. It should not be used as a substitute for expert guidance or specific advice as offered by a qualified professional.