

Arriving and Set up

Before setting up your caravan at a campsite or stop, it's important to perform a thorough check to ensure everything is safe, secure, and ready for use. Here's a checklist of things to check before you begin setting up your caravan:

1. Arriving at the Site

- ☐ **Site Assessment:**
 - Ensure the ground is level and firm enough to support the caravan.
 - Check for any obstacles, low branches, or uneven terrain that might obstruct setup.
 - Confirm that the area is clear of rocks or debris that could damage the underside of the caravan.
- ☐ **Campsite Boundaries:**
 - Be aware of any campsite boundaries, including roads, electrical connections, and water hookups.

2. Setting up the Caravan

- ☐ **Handbrake:**
 - Apply the handbrake on both the caravan and tow vehicle to prevent rolling
- ☐ **Before disconnecting from vehicle**
 - Chock van wheels (front & back)
 - Put on the van handbrake
 - If site not level – use van wheel ramps to level van
 - Release handbrake and pull van up onto ramps
- ☐ **Unhitching from Tow Vehicle**
 - Apply Caravan and Vehicle hand brake
 - Use jockey wheel to raise van of vehicle tow ball
 - Remove the 7 or 12 pin plugs
 - Remove the Anderson plug
 - Remove the chains connecting the van to the tow vehicle

3. Levelling the Caravan

- ☐ **Levelling Blocks:**
 - If the site is uneven, use levelling blocks under the wheels to ensure the caravan sits level.
 - Adjust the jockey wheel to raise or lower the front end of the caravan, if necessary.
- ☐ **Stabilizing Legs:**
 - Once level, lower the stabiliser legs to keep the caravan steady when inside.
 - Ensure all stabiliser legs are securely down, but do not use them for lifting the caravan.

4. Setting Up Caravan Systems

☐ **Electrical Connection:**

- If the campsite offers electric hook-up, connect the caravan to the power supply and check the power.
- Ensure that the power cable is in good condition and plugged into the correct socket.

☐ **Water Connection:**

- If connected to mains water, hook up the water hose to the caravan's inlet and check for leaks.
- Ensure your water pump is working properly if using internal water tanks.

☐ **Gas Supply:**

- Ensure the gas bottle is securely connected and turn on the gas supply.
- Check for any leaks using a leak detector or soapy water, especially around the gas connections.
- Turn off the gas supply if not using appliances immediately.

5. Securing the Caravan

☐ **Stabiliser Legs:**

- Double-check that stabiliser legs are down and firm on the ground.

☐ **Wheel Chocks:**

- Place wheel chocks on both sides of the wheels to prevent any movement.

☐ **Awning (if applicable):**

- If using an awning, ensure it is securely attached and correctly positioned.
- Check that the awning is not obstructed and that the weather conditions are suitable for it (no high winds).

6. Interior Checks

☐ **Doors and Windows:**

- Ensure all doors and windows are properly sealed to prevent drafts or moisture buildup.
- Check that all locks are secure.

☐ **Appliances:**

- Test all appliances (fridge, stove, heater, etc.) to ensure they're working correctly, especially if you're using gas.

☐ **Water Systems:**

- Run water through the taps to ensure there are no leaks and that the pump is working.
- Check the toilet and shower systems, if applicable.

7. Exterior Checks

☐ **Awnings and Sunshades:**

- Set up any exterior shade systems like awnings, ensuring they are securely anchored and adjusted properly.

☐ **Roof Vents & Skylights:**

- Ensure roof vents or skylights are closed to prevent rain from entering.
- Check for any debris that could obstruct ventilation or cause leaks.

☐ **Bicycle Rack/Storage:**

- Secure any bikes or items on external racks to prevent movement or damage.

8. Safety Checks

- ☐ **Fire Extinguisher:**
 - Ensure the fire extinguisher is easily accessible and in working condition.
- ☐ **Carbon Monoxide & Smoke Detectors:**
 - Check that detectors are functional and that the caravan is properly ventilated.
- ☐ **Emergency Equipment:**
 - Ensure any emergency equipment, such as a first aid kit or emergency flare, is in place.

9. Final Walkaround

- ☐ **Loose Items:**
 - Check for any loose items inside or outside the caravan that could become dangerous or cause damage.
- ☐ **Parking Brakes:**
 - Re-check that the handbrake is engaged on the caravan before leaving the tow vehicle.
- ☐ **Ready for Use:**
 - Confirm that everything inside and outside the caravan is in place and securely fastened before using the caravan.

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.