

# Caravan Storage Preparation

## 1. Clean the Caravan

- Exterior:** Wash and wax the caravan to protect the paintwork.
- Interior:** Vacuum carpets, wipe down surfaces, and clean cupboards.
- Fridge:** Empty, defrost, and leave the door ajar to prevent mold.
- Toilet:** Empty and clean the cassette or tank.

## 2. Remove Perishables

- Food Items:** Empty cupboards and remove all perishable goods.
- Personal Items:** Take out valuables and anything prone to damage in storage (e.g., electronics, batteries).

## 3. Drain Water Systems

- Freshwater Tank:** Drain completely.
- Greywater Tank:** Empty and rinse.
- Pipes and Pumps:** Use antifreeze if storing in freezing conditions.
- Diesel Heater:** Drain and clean as per manufacturer guidelines.

## 4. Electrical Systems

- Lights and Electronics:** Ensure everything is switched off.

## 5. Tyres and Chassis

- Tyres:** Inflate to the correct pressure or consider jacking up the caravan to prevent flat spots.
- Brakes:** Release the handbrake to avoid it seizing.
- Chassis:** Clean and apply rust protection if necessary.

## 6. Consider Storage Conditions

There are several types of caravan storage locations, each with its own advantages and considerations depending on your needs and preferences. Here's a list of the most common options:

### Indoor Storage

- **Description:** Your caravan is stored inside a building or warehouse, providing maximum protection from the elements.
- **Advantages:**
  - Protection from weather (rain, wind, snow, sun).
  - Reduced risk of vandalism or theft.
  - Ideal for long-term storage.
- **Disadvantages:**
  - Higher cost compared to outdoor storage.
  - Limited availability.
  - May have size restrictions depending on the storage facility.

### Outdoor Storage (Open-Air)

- **Description:** The caravan is stored in a fenced or secured outdoor area.
- **Advantages:**
  - More affordable than indoor storage.
  - Easy access and more space.

- Ideal for short-term or seasonal storage.
  - **Disadvantages:**
    - Exposure to the elements (weather, UV rays).
    - Higher risk of theft or vandalism (depending on security).
    - Potential damage from wind, rain, or hail.
- Covered Storage**
- **Description:** The caravan is stored under a roof or shelter but remains outside.
  - **Advantages:**
    - Protection from direct sun and rain, though not fully enclosed.
    - More affordable than indoor storage.
  - **Disadvantages:**
    - Still vulnerable to some weather elements (wind, snow, etc.).
    - Security may be less than indoor storage but better than open-air.
- Driveway or Private Land Storage**
- **Description:** Storing the caravan at home on your driveway or private land.
  - **Advantages:**
    - Convenient access.
    - No storage fees (if you own the property).
  - **Disadvantages:**
    - May require a special permit or be restricted in some areas.
    - Exposure to the elements and risk of theft/vandalism.
    - May take up space and reduce parking or living space.
- Storage Yards**
- **Description:** Large, often commercial, areas that offer caravan parking or storage.
  - **Advantages:**
    - Plenty of space for different sizes of caravans.
    - Secure fencing and sometimes 24/7 surveillance.
  - **Disadvantages:**
    - Limited control over who accesses the yard.
    - May be outdoors or under a basic cover.
- Caravan Parks**
- **Description:** Some caravan parks offer storage spaces for owners who do not want to keep their vehicles on their property.
  - **Advantages:**
    - Easy access to a secure, managed location.
    - Often include some basic maintenance or cleaning services.
  - **Disadvantages:**
    - Higher cost than open-air storage.
    - Availability might be limited in certain areas.
- Self-Storage Units (for Caravans)**
- **Description:** Renting a self-storage unit large enough to fit your caravan.
  - **Advantages:**
    - Fully enclosed and secure.
    - Can store other items with your caravan.
  - **Disadvantages:**

- Expensive compared to outdoor or covered storage.
- Requires good access, and sometimes limited hours.

### Farm or Rural Land Storage

- **Description:** Storing the caravan on a private farm or rural land (often cheaper, especially in remote areas).
- **Advantages:**
  - Affordable in comparison to commercial options.
  - Peaceful and more secluded, reducing the risk of theft.
- **Disadvantages:**
  - Less security.
  - Limited accessibility or convenience.
  - Exposure to the elements unless sheltered.

## 7. Vermin and Pest Control

### Types of Vermin and Bugs That Could Infest a Caravan in Storage

- **Rats:** Large rodents that can chew through wires, upholstery, and insulation.
- **Mice:** Smaller rodents that nest in hidden spaces and leave droppings.
- **Cockroaches:** Insects attracted to food crumbs and dark, damp areas.
- **Ants:** Can invade foraging for food or establish colonies inside.
- **Spiders:** Often found in undisturbed corners, webs may indicate their presence.
- **Silverfish:** Thrive in dark, damp areas and feed on fabrics, paper, or adhesives.
- **Moths:** Lay eggs in fabric, causing damage to upholstery and clothing.
- **Beetles:** Carpet beetles and other species may infest soft furnishings.
- **Termites:** Can cause structural damage to wooden components.
- **Bed Bugs:** Can hide in mattresses and cushions, feeding on blood.
- **Wasps or Bees:** May build nests in small cavities or vents.
- **Flies:** May breed if food or organic waste is left behind.
- **Dust Mites:** Found in bedding and upholstery, thriving in humid conditions.
- **Fleas:** Can linger if pets were in the caravan.
- **Centipedes or Millipedes:** May enter for shelter in damp, dark areas.
- **Weevils:** Infest stored dry food like flour or grains if left behind.
- **Woodlice:** Found in damp areas, feeding on decaying material.
- **Earwigs:** Seek shelter in crevices and may be attracted to damp environments.
- **Snakes or Lizards:** In rare cases, small reptiles might take shelter.
- **Birds or Bats:** May enter if there are open vents or gaps, creating nests inside.

### How to Protect Your Stored Caravan from Vermin and Pests

- **Thorough Cleaning:** Remove all food, crumbs, and waste to eliminate attractants.
- **Seal Entry Points:** Inspect and block any holes, gaps, or vents with mesh or sealant to prevent access.
- **Use Repellents:** Place natural or chemical repellents, such as mothballs, peppermint oil, or commercial rodent deterrents, inside the caravan.
- **Deploy Traps:** Set rodent and insect traps in areas prone to infestation.
- **Vent Covers:** Install fine mesh covers over air vents to block insects and small animals.
- **Protect Soft Furnishings:** Store cushions, bedding, and other textiles in sealed, pest-proof bags.
- **Secure Food Storage:** Remove all food items or store them in airtight, pest-proof containers.
- **Inspect Regularly:** Check the caravan periodically for signs of vermin or pest activity.
- **Use Ultrasonic Devices:** Install ultrasonic pest repellents to deter rodents and insects.

- **Elevate the Caravan:** Place the caravan on stands to limit access by crawling pests.
- **Wheel and Jack Protection:** Wrap wheels and jacks with plastic or deterrent materials to prevent climbing.
- **Remove Moisture:** Use dehumidifiers or moisture absorbers to reduce dampness that attracts pests.
- **Close Curtains and Blinds:** Block light and warmth from attracting pests.
- **Maintain Surroundings:** Keep the storage area clean, clear of debris, and free from overgrown vegetation.
- **Professional Pest Control:** Consider hiring a pest control service to treat the storage area or caravan.
- **Check Insurance:** Ensure your insurance policy covers damage caused by vermin or pests.
- **Inspect Before Use:** Thoroughly check the caravan for infestations or damage before using it again.

### 8. Ventilation

- Open vents slightly to allow airflow and reduce condensation.
- Use moisture absorbers to prevent dampness.

### 9. Security

- Locks:** Secure all doors, windows, and storage compartments.
- Wheel Clamps:** Install wheel clamps or hitch locks for added security.
- Alarm System:** Activate if available.

### 10. Cover and Protect

- Use a breathable caravan cover to protect from weather and dirt.
- Place the caravan on level ground and use wheel chocks.

### 11. Check Insurance

- Ensure your insurance covers the caravan while in storage.
- Inform your insurer about the storage location if required.

### 12. Regular Checks

- Visit periodically to check for damage, pests, or dampness.
- Air out the caravan and inspect for any signs of mould or leaks

#### 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.