

Travels With Rigby

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CAMPER VAN - INSPECTION CHECKLIST

- Why is the current owner selling? How long have they owned it?
- Year and odometer reading?
- Is the body dinged up? Has it ever been in an accident? Ask about any body work (accident related and not).
- Gas consumption - gas or diesel, miles per gallon? City or highway driving?
- How has the camper been used - how often, what times of the year, long trips or short trips, everyday driving or vacation travel? According to our mechanic, infrequent use is not necessarily a good thing.
- How has it been stored - especially over the winter months?
- Who does the regular maintenance - owner or mechanic? Are there records showing regular oil changes, tune-ups, etc.?
- Wear and tear on the tires? Check the condition of the spare.
- Test the batteries - both the engine battery and the leisure battery (the one that runs the interior lights, water pump to the sink and toilet, etc.).
- Have major mechanical parts been repaired or replaced. This would include transmission, brakes, shocks and struts, timing belt, alternator, etc. Are there any written records of this work that show the date/mileage point and the work done?
- Run the water systems: turn the taps on at the sink, flush the toilet, run the showers (inside and outside if there is one).
- Test the propane burners on the stove.
- Test the microwave if there is one - you'll need to be connected to a land power source.
- Turn on the heater and play with the thermostat to make sure that it blows hot air.
- Turn on the air conditioner (you'll need to be hooked into land power for this).
- Test the ceiling power vent fan. The brand Fantastic Fan is the most common and they move *a lot* of air very efficiently.
- Test all the inside lights.
- Test the fridge on all settings. We have three-way fridge that runs on 12V, electrical hookup and propane. Chances are you'll be using the propane hookup and the electrical connection at a campground. Ask the seller to have it up and running before you arrive.
- Inspect the condition of carbon-monoxide alarm, smoke detector, fire extinguisher.
- Check the condition of walls, ceiling (have there been any leaks?) and flooring.
- Check the condition of the cushions - especially on the bed area.
- Check the outlet valves for the grey water and black water (sewage) tanks.
- Ask about certification requirements of the propane tank and fittings. This requirement varies from province to province and from Canada to the United States. For Ontario regulations regarding recreational vehicles check [here](#).
- Unroll the awning (if equipped) and check for rips, tears and the mechanism.