



# GENERAL RV MAINTENANCE

**Disclaimer:** This document is intended for basic maintenance reference and is not all inclusive due to the unlimited number of potential components. Please refer to OEM documents for proper engine, transmission, chassis, and any other maintenance specific to your RV (don't forget your tow vehicle if applicable).

**Safety Notice:** When performing any tasks on or around your RV, always ensure you are following proper safety precautions and using appropriate safety gear. Know your limitations: ie. if you are not comfortable with heights hire someone to perform roof maintenance.

*Pro Tip:* It is recommended to keep a detailed maintenance and repair log. Do not perform any maintenance yourself that you are uncomfortable with, please schedule those appointments in advance with a qualified service provider.

## Monthly

Good monthly inspections can prevent you from having to perform annual inspections or worry about what if.

Having a good plan for inspections also will help you get to know your RV better, knowing what's normal or new is very important.

### Notes:

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### Power

#### Run that Generator

Run it for at least 2 hours at 50% load. Not running the generator for months can cause problems next time it is used. The engine and fluids need to be cycled *sitting can be as harmful as misuse.*

#### Check those Batteries (Lead acid) they are your lifeline

Top off the water levels once a month. Use distilled water only. A result of not checking your batteries will be a series of ghosts in your RV related to low voltage that might not be obvious, that could lead to long, frustrating trouble shooting. *Have a voltmeter and know how to use it, 70% of issues will involve electrical troubleshooting.*

#### Run the Engine

Make sure hoses and clamps are secure and hoses are free of any cracks, check to make sure there are no leaks, check engine and transmission fluid levels. *Doing a simple check can ensure that repairs are under your control and not while on your trip.*

### Climate Control

#### Cycle the Air Conditioning

Vacuum vents and clean filters. As dust etc. builds in your ducts the result could be a unit that is stressed, freezes up, and could prematurely fail *(lengthy expensive repairs that could be avoided).*

### Safety

#### Testing Safety Detectors

Test smoke and carbon monoxide detectors for proper function. *Failure to check can result in serious consequences.*

#### Kicking Tires & Weight Distribution

Inspect tires for cracks or uneven wear and check pressure. Weigh your RV and be aware of how your weight is distributed. Doing a visual inspection of your tires, weighing your RV, and using a Tire Pressure Monitoring System is easy insurance. *You can see suspension issues, alignment issues or issues via road hazards you may otherwise not see.*



**Check & Clean Appliances**

Deep clean your water heater per manufacturer specifications (annually if not used frequently or in soft water areas), replace anode rod if applicable. Open the access panels behind the Water Heater, Refrigerator, Furnace and clean out any dirt, debris, hornet or other bug nests that may have accumulated over the camping season. Turn on and run all appliances. *Don't forget that your furnace, water heater, and RV style absorption refrigerator are typically also 12V DC appliances, so make sure you are checking functionality on AC, DC, and Propane (if applicable).*

**Annual**

**Notes:**

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**Inspections**

**Roof Inspection**

To help prevent water damage (**the #1 destroyer of RVs**), have the RV roof membrane and seals inspected for holes, tears, cracks, and any other possible issues and ensure you are resealing problem areas using the correct sealants. *Identifying your roofing material (EPDM, TPO, Fiberglass, etc) will determine what type of sealants you should be using, always follow instructions carefully during application for proper adhesion.*

**Seam, & Window Seals**

The lifetimes of seals vary based on the environment and type of sealant used. Inspect the seals at least once a year (especially those on the roof line and around running lights). Look for any signs of breaks, voids, gaps, looseness, or physical deterioration. *If there is a problem with the sealant, use the proper sealant to replace it per your OEM.*

**Propane**

Take a look at the propane system. Look for signs of rust, paint damage, dings, and issues with the connection integrity like cracked hoses or fittings. The propane system needs to be working properly for both safety and efficiency. *It is also a good idea to have a qualified technician test the propane system for leaks at least once per year.*

**Climate Control**

**Cooling Efficiency**

The air conditioner(s) shroud(s) should be removed and exterior areas and fins cleaned at least once a year. *If you find any fins that are bent or damaged, now would be a good time to straighten those, this will help to keep the system running efficiently.*

**Tune ups and Replacements**

**Tires, Brakes, Belts, and Hoses**

Just like a car, the tires, brakes, belts, and hoses need to be checked at least once a year. Repack wheel bearings for the next outing per your manufacturers specifications (typically every 12 months or 12k miles). *These tasks are more advanced for some users so please schedule appointments in ample time for camping season if you intend to hire a professional.*

**Detector Batteries**

Put new batteries in smoke/carbon monoxide detectors if applicable and check expiration dates. *Some detectors are hardwired or have sealed batteries.*