

WHAT TO LOOK OUT FOR WHEN BUYING A CARAVAN - 100 POINT CHECK LIST

1	Check the front and rear panels for any hairline cracks, pay particular attention to the point where the panel joins the side panel	51	Check the carpet for plucks and tears
2	Check the body work dents	52	Check the upholstery for stains
3	Check the paint work for any chips	53	Check the upholstery for tears
4	Look at the panels from different angles and different light as you should be able to spot any repairs that have been made	54	Check the upholstery for any flat spots
5	Look for any holes in the panels of the caravan – some may be difficult to spot but untreated aluminium can fall victim to tin worm	55	Check the upholstery for wear
6	Check for any out of place stickers or graphics on the caravan's body work – this could be a sign of hidden damage	56	Ask the seller to demonstrate the fridge and freezer working
7	Check all windows for scratches	57	Check all shelves in fridge are present
8	Check all windows for cracks	58	Check for cleanliness and smells in the fridge
9	Check all windows for condensation	59	Check the fridge seals correctly
10	Open windows and ensure they have not swollen (also known as blown)	60	Check the control panel or buttons for the fridge and freezer are functional
11	Check the window seals are not perished or split (common cause of water ingress)	61	Check for any damage to the fridge and freezer doors
12	Check there are no cracks in the surrounds of the external locker boxes	62	Ask the seller to demonstrate the oven, grill and hob working
13	Check window seals are all intact and not split	63	Check the grill pan and handle are present (expensive and difficult to replace)
14	Check all the locker door locks have barrels	64	Check oven shelf is present
15	Ask the seller to show you inside all lockers and check hinges are intact	65	Check there is no damage to front of oven
16	Use your nose as a guide inside the lockers for any suspicious smells	66	Check cover for hobs is not cracked or broken
17	Check the seals of the locker doors are not perished or split	67	Ask seller to demonstrate the heating working
18	Check the tyres are in date (don't forget the spare)	68	Ask the seller to demonstrate the water heater working
19	Check the tyres for any cracks – you should not be able to see cord	69	Check for any rattles or strange noises when water heater and heater are operational
20	Check the tyres for any bulges	70	Check for any damage to the heater
21	Check tread on tyres	71	Inspect the water heater closely while running and look for any leaks or cracks in the unit itself
22	Check the wheels are the same (different wheels can be seriously dangerous whilst towing)	72	Check water pump is present (£50 odd to replace)
23	Check the tyres are for caravans and not car tyres	73	Turn on all taps and check for leaks
24	Look under the caravan and check for any rust on the chassis (most modern caravan chassis' are made from galvanized steel)	74	Turn on shower and check for leaks
25	Check for any splits in the A frame cover	75	Inspect shower heads and taps for cracks or swelling
26	With your knee, put pressure on the very end of the hitch head – the damper should compress (this applies the brakes when you brake in your car)	76	Check sinks for cracks
27	Check the gaiter around the damper is not split or damaged (can allow grit and dirt to get into the mechanism)	77	Check shower trays for cracks
28	Does the caravan have a breakaway cable? If so, is it frayed or damaged in any way? (Now a legal requirement to have one)	78	Ask seller to hook caravan up to mains
29	Check the hitch head mechanism operates correctly	79	Ask seller to turn 12V power on
30	Check the jockey wheel bar is not bent	80	Plug in a couple of 240V appliances and check it does not trip the power
31	Check the jockey wheel can be wound up and down	81	Check main control panel has no warning lights or errors
32	Check the tyre on the jockey wheel is in good order	2	Check fuses in the main power unit are all okay
33	Check the brake lights work	83	Check for any damage to main power unit
34	Check the road lights and side lights work	84	Check any LED displays on the main control panel are functional
35	Check the indicators work	85	Check all buttons on the main control panel are functional
36	Check the reverse light/s work	86	Check the battery charger unit is operational
37	Check the light clusters are not cracked or incomplete	87	Be aware of any burning smells while battery charger is operational

WHAT TO LOOK OUT FOR WHEN BUYING A CARAVAN - 100 POINT CHECK LIST

38	Check the light clusters are not full of water	88	Check all lights work (some are individually switched)
39	Check the light clusters are not condensated	89	Check lights lenses are present
40	Check the 12N and 12S socket pins are present and not bent	90	Check for any holes in the worksurfaces
41	Check the 12N and 12S sockets are not corroded	91	Check for any scratches in the worksurfaces
42	Check the cables of the 12N and 12S sockets are not exposing any wires	92	Check for any damage to locker doors
43	Inside the battery box ensure the battery terminals are not corroded	93	Check for delamination of the covering on the wooden furniture
44	Use your nose to detect any damp, rotten or mouldy smells	94	Check locker catches are all operational
45	Be aware of any overpowering pleasant aromas as these may be covering bad smells (like damp or smoke)	95	Check all lockers and doors close correctly
46	Perform visual checks under each window and look for any water stains	96	Ask seller to demonstrate any alarm systems
47	If you have a <u>damp meter</u> use it to get readings from under all the windows and any other places where there is an external joining of panels (readings under 20% are acceptable)	97	Check to ensure that if the alarm requires key fobs they are present and working
48	Look under all bed boxes for any signs of black mould	98	Check rooflights for any cracks or splits
49	Pull up any loose fit carpets, mats or cardboard and walk from one end the caravan to the other – you are looking for any spongy areas	99	Ensure rooflight seals are not perished or split
50	Check the carpet for stains	100	Ask seller to demonstrate any further fitted extras to prove their functionality