



CARAVAN & RV BUYERS GUIDE

**RV & CARAVAN
CLUB AUSTRALIA**

rvclub.com.au

Written & Compiled by
Steven Middleton
2021 Edition

CARAVAN & MOTORHOME BUYERS GUIDE

Q1 2021 Edition

This FREE buyers guide was created to help people navigate the process of buying an RV. We put this together in conjunction with [RV & Caravan Club Australia](#) and [Camperagent RV Centre](#) in Adelaide (One of Australia's largest caravan yards), and with the help of purchasers like yourself, to create what we believe is, the ultimate buyer's guide.

If you have any feedback/suggestions on this guide, or would like to talk about sponsoring the next one, please let us know: myrvclub@gmail.com or let us know using this [Google Form](#).

Once you have finished reading this guide consider doing our [Caravan Towing Test](#) to test your knowledge further.

Please note: We use the term RV (short for Recreational Vehicle) throughout this document as this covers Caravans, Pop Tops, Motorhomes, Campervans, Fifth Wheelers, Slide ons, and Camper Trailers. All [blue](#) text are links, and may offer further information or link to products.

To search this PDF on a PC/Laptop press Ctrl + F and CMD + F for Mac Users.

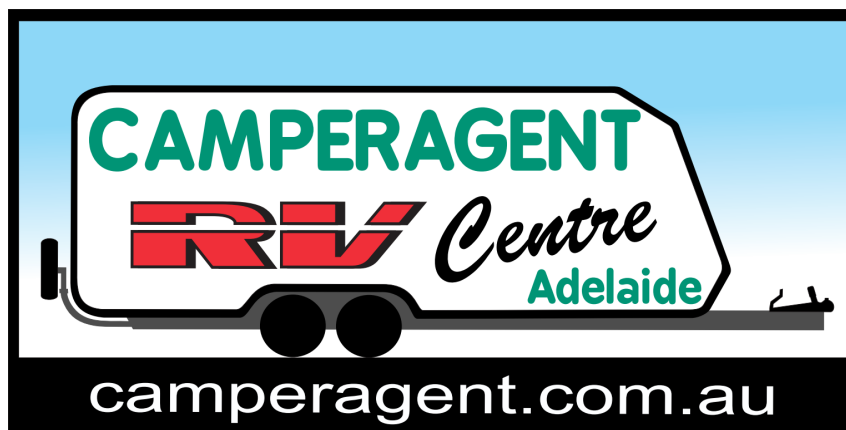
Credits:

Author/Compiled by: Steven Middleton & [RV & Caravan Club Australia](#)

If you find this **FREE guide handy, or feel this guide gives you any sort of value, please consider [buying the admin team a coffee](#), also don't forget to share it with your friends!**

Contributors: [Camperagent RV Centre](#) Team

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ensure compliance with all laws and regulations.

Every effort has been made to make this report as complete and accurate as possible.
However, there may be mistakes in typography or content. Also, this report contains
information on the RV lifestyle and technology only up to the publishing date.
Therefore, **this report should be used as a guide – not as the ultimate source of information.**

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Keep in mind that we may receive commissions when you click our links and make purchases, this does not affect the prices.
However, this does not impact our reviews, recommendations and comparisons.

We try our best to keep things fair and balanced, in order to help you make the best choice for you.

GETTING STARTED

Want to make the leap into the wonderful world of caravan or motorhome travel? This comprehensive e-book can help you make an informed decision.

The first question to ask yourself is, what type of RV do you want to travel in?

The answer to that question heavily depends on what style of travelling you're doing, and the type of places you are hoping to get to, this can help determine what your ideal RV is.

Here are the most popular types of RV's:

CARAVAN

Modern caravans are usually built using either a timber, aluminium frame, or sandwich (Composite) panel, and come in various lengths from 12' to over 30'+ foot, and can be up to 8 foot wide (including any fittings) with a maximum of 14 foot in height. They are easy to set up at camp and come in various layout options. A big advantage a caravan has over a motorhome or campervan is you can unhitch your vehicle and use it to see the town/city or for 4x4 activities.

POP-TOP CARAVAN

Pop-tops feature a canvas, vinyl or fabric sleeve that connects the roof to the sides of the caravan. This insert allows the roof to be lowered for travelling, this can help with wind resistance, as it is reduced and its centre of gravity is lowered.

CAMPER TRAILER

A Camper trailer is generally a lower profile Recreational Vehicle which consists of a wind up or push/pull out roof section (both hard floor and soft floor). A Camper Trailer may also have extendable bed sections at either end of the trailer (typically in the wind up models). Camper Trailers are easy to tow and are often suitable for smaller tow vehicles and/or for the heavy duty off road stuff.

TENT TRAILER

Tent trailers are compact and popular for on-road or off-road use with their relatively light mass and low wind resistance. Tent trailers are easy to tow and are often suitable for smaller tow vehicles.

5TH WHEEL CARAVAN

5th Wheelers have all the features of a standard caravan but are designed to be towed by utilities or trucks. The towing connection is mounted on the tray of the tow vehicle, as close as possible to the rear axle. The 5th Wheeler's suspension carries the majority of its gross weight, with the balance distributed forward of the rear suspension over the differential rather than the extreme rear of the tow vehicle. Those towing 5th Wheelers should ensure that they do not exceed the axle capacity of the tow vehicle when the rig is connected.

MOTORHOME

A motorhome is a self-powered unit driven from a cabin that allows easy access to the rest of the vehicle. Motorhomes can be one of the most stress free ways of travelling as you don't have to hitch and unhitch everytime you stop.

Also keep in mind the licence requirements that are determined by the Gross vehicle mass (GVM):

- Up to 4.5 tonne GVM can be driven on a standard license
- 4.5 tonne to 8 tonne GVM is light rigid (LR)
- 8 tonne to 12 tonne GVM can be driven on a medium rigid licence (MR)

CAMPERVAN

Campervans are a motorised van equipped with sleeping, refrigeration, sink, cooking and dining facilities designed for recreational travel.

SLIDE-ON CAMPER

The slide-on camper is a caravan type body which slides on and is secured to the bed or tray of a utility.

TOW VEHICLE

If you think a towable is your type, a question we often get is, "Is it better to buy the caravan first or the tow vehicle?" Our answer, definitely the caravan!

I see it time and time again where someone comes into the yard to find their perfect caravan, they fall in love with one, only to find out they can't tow it with the vehicle they just purchased. As you can imagine this can be very deflating.

We do recommend researching your vehicle early in the process, once you know what size van, and more importantly, how much weight you are likely to be towing. You can access apps/websites like carsales.com.au and look in the Specs section, then go to Dimensions and Weights, then look for Towing Capacity (braked) there you will find the vehicle's towing capacity (make sure this matches, or is above the

caravans ATM, (more on this later). This information is usually pretty accurate but always refer to your car's handbook if you have it.

Choosing the right RV for you

Things you should ask yourself are;

- What type of RV is best for you?
- Are you happy to hitch and unhitch a caravan?
- Are you looking to travel from town to town relatively quickly? (if, so Motorhome might be a better option) Or, do you want to stay and enjoy the towns? (Caravans are handy in this situation as you have a vehicle to sightsee in, unhitched)
- Where do I want to go? - This can determine what size RV to go for
- How rough will the roads be there? - This is to determine whether you need an off-road unit, semi off-road unit, or an on-road model.
- How long do you want to go for?
- How many people are traveling with you?
- Do you want to free camp?
- What are your must have features?

Pro Tip: Have you considered hiring an RV first? Sites like <https://www.camplify.com.au/> allow you to hire other peoples Motorhomes and Caravans. This can be a great way to try out the lifestyle if you're still unsure, and is obviously a cheaper way to try a few different types of RV's out.

Here's a few other caravan or motorhome hire websites:

<https://www.britz.com>

<http://www.maui-rentals.com/au/en>

<https://www.apollocamper.com/>

<https://www.keamotorhomes.com/motorhomes-for-sale/try-before-you-buy/>

GETTING FINANCE

When it comes to finance there are a plethora of options out there. We do recommend going for a company that specialises in Caravan and RV finance, as it is a leisure product and adheres to a special set of rules.

A finance company I have personally used in the past is called Credit One, and I had a really great experience with them. It is worth using the link below to enquire about their competitive finance rates and experience their customer service for yourself.

[CLICK HERE TO APPLY ONLINE*](#)

[CLICK HERE FOR A LOAN CALCULATOR*](#)

*The club does get a small kickback if you use our link to signup, it doesn't cost you any extra and this helps us to better serve the RV community. This is not financial advice, please do your research.

Finance Tips:

Have your paperwork ready, we can't stress this enough, the more information you have ready for the finance broker the quicker the process will be.

Know your credit history, it is worth knowing what your credit score is before applying for loans. You can use free websites like www.getcreditscore.com.au/ to acquire this information as an example.

Ensure your financial statements and tax returns are up to date and readily accessible, if someone is going to lend you a lot of money they need to know everything about your financial situation, so having things like your tax returns and financial statements ready can help the process.

Newer is better, new or recently used caravans and RV's are good for lenders because they are lower risk. This is because they have more value and are better securities (collateral) for lenders. Much older used vehicles have less resale value and are harder to find loans for. The older the RV is, the harder it is to get a loan on it, and sometimes it is not even possible.

I recommend having the following paperwork ready:

- ☐ Identification, Drivers License, Passport etc.
- ☐ Proof of Income, payslips, tax returns etc.
- ☐ Bank Statements, printed or emailed directly to the broker/bank.
- ☐ Credit Record, this is just for your own knowledge.

BUYING NEW VS USED

Buying new or used has its own advantages and disadvantages.

Used Caravans/Motorhomes

- Cheaper in price.
- Lower cost of entry in the unlikely event this lifestyle isn't for you, it will be easier to sell.
- Used RVs depreciate slower than new ones.
- You can take delivery straight away.
- Plenty to choose from.
- Older units can be harder to get finance for.

New Caravans/Motorhomes

- Lower/better interest rates.
- Manufacturer's warranty of varying amounts, generally 1-5 years depending on brand.
- Latest technology installed.
- Option to change the colour scheme and to custom build your caravan with your own options, so you can set your RV up exactly how you want it.
- No risk of prior damages or repairs.

Consider filling out the RV Buyers Wish List at the end of this guide to keep track of your "Wants" and "Needs" to make sure you stay on track with the buying process.



WHAT'S MY TRADE IN WORTH?

Whether you want to trade your RV at a dealer, or want to sell your current RV to get something bigger/smaller/different, it may be worth getting an idea of it's retail price before going to a dealer or selling it.

You can look at all the classifieds sites for your particular unit, but bear in mind people can ask any price they like on those sites, and it doesn't necessarily mean they are getting any enquiries, in fact if it's too far above retail I can guarantee it'll stay there until they bring the price down to a more realistic figure.

One site to consider for a very rough idea on retail is <https://www.afs.com.au/tools/valuations/> it's not 100% accurate but can give you a guide on current retails for both private and dealers.

If you would like to pay for an accurate appraisal, RV & Caravan Club Australia also has an appraisal service, (free for paying members). We are fast and can get you full reports and what the market is doing. We can also give you retail and possible dealer trade in prices, and because we work with dealers in the industry we can even get you quick cash offers.

PLEASE NOTE: If you are selling to a dealer (especially outright) you **CAN NOT** expect them to buy from you at retail, they are a business and have costs to cover, so be realistic when speaking to a dealership.

Factors that can affect overall price:

Condition.

Water Marks.

The Smell Of Cigarettes/Smoke.

Colours, overly personalized with strong colours like reds and greens can make it harder to sell.

Additional Features.

Previous insurance work.

When trading in your Caravan or Motorhome to a Dealer

Have the following stuff ready, this will ensure a smoother transition/change over.

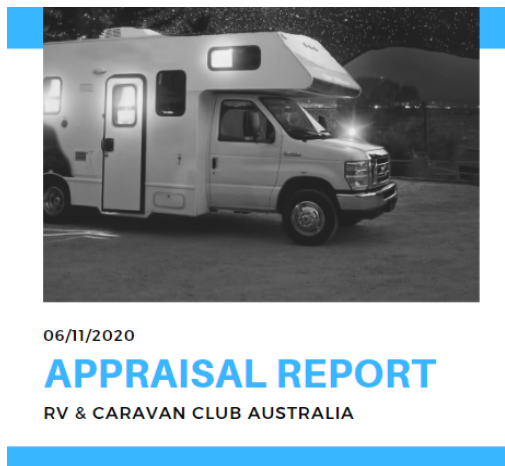
- Registration papers as proof of ownership
- Current driver's license
- All available service history and log books for the caravan
- Manuals/remotes to any appliances in the caravan
- Spare keys
- Bank account details for payment

Also, having your caravan or motorhome as clean and detailed you can will also help the process.

Please remember to also check all of your cupboards for personal belongings, if you want to keep it, take the stuff out.

Getting A [Professional Evaluation](#)

You should consider getting your Caravan or Motorhome appraised accurately by a professional before selling it. This allows you to be right on the money when you advertise it and try to sell it online. RV & Caravan Club Australia have started offering this service for the low price of **\$149**, or **\$99** for members, including a full report of what is currently selling that is similar.



[Click Here For Members Appraisal \\$99](#)

[Click Here For Non Members Appraisal \\$149](#)

We can also get you an *Instant Offer* from our dealer network all around Australia!

DIFFERENT TYPES OF MOTORHOMES

There are 3 “types” of motorhome and campervan styles that are available for purchase. Choosing what's best for you depends on your needs and size you are comfortable with driving.

A Type – Units that are built on a dedicated motorhome chassis. Often referred to as a “stripped” chassis, they are specially constructed motorhome base with all the mechanical components in place. From this the motorhome body is constructed around the stripped chassis, then fits the interior. The benefits of this are that the floor is at the same level throughout the motorhome, allowing the driver and passenger seats to be swivelled and used as seating – creating a more spacious motorhome.

B Type – This type of motorhome is based on a cab chassis, using an existing cabin and bare chassis. The motorhome body is constructed on the chassis, fully integrated with the cabin section. This type of motorhome does not have a bed over the cab chassis, it is usually more aerodynamic in look than the C type motorhome. With (usually) direct access into the cabin, most cabin seats can be swivelled to form part of the main living area depending on floor plan layout and design.

C Type – This type of motorhome is based on a cab chassis, using the existing cabin and bare chassis. The motorhome body is then constructed on the chassis, fully integrating it with the cabin section. This type of motorhome also has a section over the top of the cabin – termed the ‘cabover’ or ‘luton peak’ (where people can usually sleep). The cabover can be used as a double bed/ single bed or converted to an entertainment unit, ensuring maximum use of space within the motorhome. Type C motorhomes also have direct access from the driving area to the motorhome and usually the cabin seats can be swiveled to form part of the main living area depending on floor plan layout and design.

Campervan – A campervan, sometimes referred to as a camper, is a motorised vehicle that provides transport, cooking, dining facilities and sleeping accommodation, designed for recreational travel.

Information credit: <https://avidarv.com.au/buying-tools/buyers-guide/>

UNDERSTANDING WEIGHTS

Here is the list of abbreviations commonly used in the world of RV's. So many people get these abbreviations wrong and you wouldn't believe how many times caravanners incorrectly misinterpret this information.

GVM (Gross Vehicle Mass) The GVM is the maximum allowable total mass of a fully loaded motor vehicle, consisting of the tare mass (mass of the vehicle) plus the load (including passengers, fuel, onboard water, luggage, belongings and food).

GCM (Gross Combination Mass) GCM is the rating provided by the manufacturer of the tow vehicle. The maximum laden mass of a motor vehicle plus the maximum laden weight of an attached trailer is not permitted to exceed the GCM rating.

ATM (Aggregate Trailer Mass) The total laden weight of a trailer, which includes the tow ball mass and whatever you add as payload (e.g. water, gas, food, luggage). The ATM is specified by the trailer manufacturer and must not be exceeded.

GTM (Gross Trailer Mass) The total permissible mass which includes whatever you add as payload (e.g.. water, gas and luggage) that can be supported by the wheels of a trailer. This does not include the mass supported by the tow ball.

Tare Mass The unladen weight of the completely new trailer as delivered (including any options fitted from the factory/manufacturer).

Tow Ball Mass The weight imposed on the tow vehicle's tow ball by the coupling.

Payload The allowable load carrying capacity or 'payload' is worked out by deducting the "Tare Mass" from the "ATM". It must not be exceeded under any circumstances. Safety, insurance & warranty may be affected if the specified payload is exceeded.

Having the following information about your tow vehicle can make the buying experience easier and safer. Remember you can use carsales.com.au to get this info.

My Vehicles Kerb Weight (KW) is _____kg + Payload _____kg = G.V.M. _____kg

Towing Capacity _____kg Tow Ball Mass _____kg G.C.M. _____kg

Caravans ATM _____ + Vehicles G.V.M. _____ = G.C.M. _____

This figure CAN NOT exceed the vehicles G.C.M. rating.

THE BUYING PROCESS

First research what you want in an RV, try and ascertain what is most important to you. Do you want to be able to shower in the middle of nowhere, what seating configuration do you prefer? Etc. etc.

One big tip is to create an RV wishlist (like the one at the end of this guide) putting everything on there you hope to find in your dream RV.

- If you are buying privately you need to be aware of a few things like:
 - Who is the registered owner of the RV?
 - Is it road worthy (some states require a road worthy certificate)?
 - When was the last time it has been checked over/serviced?
 - Has it ever been in an accident or had insurance work?
 - Are there any water leaks (look inside the cupboards and around windows)?
 - Does the person selling the RV have clear ownership (no encumbrance)?
 - Making sure that it has a clear PPSR - Check here: <https://www.ppsr.gov.au/>
- If you are buying from a dealer consider the following:
 - How long have they been in business for?
 - Do they thoroughly check their RV's?
 - Are they an RVMAP accredited dealer?
 - Do they offer a hand over service?
 - Do they offer extended warranties?
 - Do they offer a club membership so you can interact with like minded people and receive ongoing discounts?

BEST WEBSITES TO LOOK AT RV'S

It goes without saying here that www.caravancampingsales.com.au is number one when it comes to the sheer number of Caravans, Camper Trailers and Motorhomes to look at. Caravan and Camping Sales gets nearly 14 million page views per month, with around 416,000+ of them being unique browsers...that's a lot of potential buyers.

Other sites to consider are:

<https://www.gumtree.com.au/>

<https://www.tradingpost.com.au/>

<https://www.tradervs.com.au/>

<https://www.facebook.com/marketplace/>

AVOID GETTING SCAMMED

ACCC advice on how to avoid online scams:

When using retail websites, find out exactly who you are dealing with. Do an online search for independent reviews of the company and anything that might indicate it might be a scam, such as a Google maps search to verify the company's physical address is genuine.

If it is an Australian company, you are in a much better position to sort out the problem if something goes wrong.

When making online payment, only pay for items using a secure payment service — such as credit card or a payment provider such as PayPal. Think twice before using virtual currencies such as bitcoin - they do not have the same protections as other transaction methods so you can't get your money back once you send it.

Avoid any arrangement with a stranger that asks for up-front payment via money order, wire transfer, international funds transfer, pre-loaded card or electronic currency, like Bitcoin. It is rare to recover money sent this way. Never send money or give credit card or online account details to anyone you don't know or trust.

Consider doing a PPSR when buying privately, this will show you who has clear title
<https://www.ppsr.gov.au/>

OTHER EXPENSES TO CONSIDER

As with everything in life, there are other expenses to consider besides the buy price. We have listed as many of them as we can so you don't get any nasty surprises after purchase.

Some of the expenses mentioned below you can't avoid (like Insurance, Rego, and Stamp Duty) but others are optional, depending on how many comforts of home you want to take on the road with you (Foxtel, Netflix etc.).

- Insurance
- Stamp Duties
- Maintenance and repair costs
- Registration
- Gas and fuel
- Access to the internet (if you need it)
- Where you'll stay on the road (caravan parks vs free parking)
- Subscription costs to satellite tv, netflix, Foxtel etc.
- Roadworthy certificate, in some states you will need roadworthy to transfer ownership with your state's transport body, for example VicRoads for Victoria. Without it, you can't register the caravan or motorhome into your name.
- Tyres
- Memberships to [RV/Caravan Clubs](#), caravan parks etc.
- Towing Course

Bonus Pro Tips:

- Have a bucket of water next to permitted fires at all times
- Fires should never be left unattended
- Drive with headlights on when driving on country roads
- Make sure you have as many tools needed with you while traveling. Better to be safe than sorry.
- Make sure you get the right advice, especially if buying your first RV. Can your car tow it or do you have the correct license to drive it? Paying members of RV & Caravan Club Australia have access to live chat with an expert, they may be able to help you.
- You can check the weight of your caravan at any stage by using one of the many public weighbridges located all around Australia. Prior to weighing, ensure your water tanks are full if you carry water when travelling.
- When first turning on your RV/caravans AC don't set it to the lowest degree, set it around 22 degrees, otherwise the compressor can freeze up and won't be as effective.

RV ETIQUETTE

Caravan Park/National Park/Recreation Areas

- Follow the park rules.
- Say hello to your neighbours and consider others at all times.
- Don't walk through anybody else's site.
- Make sure your pet is under control. Not everyone is an animal lover. Also, make sure that pets are allowed in the park (consider doing this before booking).
- Park your vehicles on your own site or designated parking area.
- Toilet waste to be disposed of in designated dump stations.
- Wash down a dump station with the hose provided after emptying your holding tanks.
- Use a sullage hose for grey water.
- Use the allocated entertainment and activities areas especially with children.
- Keep noise levels down particularly before 8am and after 10pm. This applies to music, generators and loud TV sets.
- Light campfires if allowed only in designated areas; never leave unattended; extinguish thoroughly.
- Remove all rubbish from your site when you leave, and ensure the site is as clean, or cleaner than when you arrived.
- Care for the environment and protect trees, shrubs and other natural surrounds.

Driving

- It is essential that you remain aware at all times of the fact that you are towing or driving a significant weight.
- Check rear vision mirrors frequently.
- Keep within the legal towing speed limit
- Drive in the left hand lane except when passing and allow extra room when overtaking.
- When travelling in a convoy, leave enough room for other vehicles to pass one van at a time.
- Pull off the road periodically to allow other cars to pass.
- On gravel and narrow roads, pull off the road and stop to allow large trucks to pass.
- Acknowledge fellow caravanners and RV drivers as you pass them on the road.

Source: <https://www.caravancampingsw.com/rv-buyers-guide/buyer-consideration/>

CHOOSING THE RIGHT GENERATOR TO RUN YOUR AIR COND.

This is easily one of our most asked questions, What size generator will run my air conditioner?

So here's a chart I found on [My Generators](#) Site showing what generators run which air conditioners. As you can imagine they also sell them, click the link above to see their range of generators.

MYGENERATOR
POWER PRODUCTS DIRECT

Generators to Run Your Caravan Air Conditioner

SKU	Air Conditioner Model	Suitable Generators				
RV Built-In Air Conditioners - Wall Mounted						
6100001	Dometic Aircommand Jabiru all-in-one Reverse Cycle Air Conditioner	EF2200iS	CTG2500i	P2400	EF2400iS	P3000i
HERONQ-SILVER-KIT	Dometic Aircommand Heron Q Reverse Cycle Split System Air Conditioner	EF2200iS	CTG2500i	P2400	EF2400iS	P3000i
HERON2-WHITE-KIT	Dometic Aircommand Heron 2.2 Split System Air Conditioner	EF2200iS	CTG2500i	P2400	EF2400iS	P3000i

RV Built-In Air Conditioners - Underbunk

HB9000	Houghton Belaire HB9000 Reverse Cycle Under Bunk Air Conditioner	EF2200iS	CTG2500i	P2400	EF2400iS	P3000i
SAPHIR R/C-KIT	Truma Saphir Comfort Reverse Cycle Air Conditioner	PGE121	EF2000iS	EF2200iS	CTG2500i	P2400

PGE121	EF2000iS	EF2200iS	CTG2500i	P2400	EF2400iS	P3000i
						
Dometic 1800W Inverter Generator	Yamaha 2000W Inverter Generator	Yamaha 2200W Inverter Generator	Cromtech 2400W Inverter Generator	Briggs & Stratton 2400W Inverter Generator	Yamaha 2400W Inverter Generator	Briggs & Stratton 3000W Inverter Generator

**Please note, this advice is general in nature and does not factor in other appliances running and drawing power at the same time as the air conditioner.*

SKU	Air Conditioner Model	Suitable Generators				
RV Roof Top Air Conditioners						
IBIS4-ADB-KIT	Dometic Aircommand Ibis MK4 Reverse Cycle Roof Top Air Conditioner	PGE121	EF2000IS	EF2200IS	CTG2500i	P2400
HARRIER-PLUS-KIT	Dometic Harrier Plus Rooftop Air Conditioner	PGE121	EF2000IS	EF2200IS	CTG2500i	P2400
9600009483	Dometic Harrier Lite Roof Top Air Conditioner	PGE121	EF2000IS	EF2200IS	CTG2500i	P2400
HARRIER-INV-V2-KIT	Dometic Harrier Inverter Rooftop Air Conditioner	PGE121	EF2000IS	EF2200IS	CTG2500i	P2400
FJ2200-ADB-KIT	Dometic Freshjet 2200 Roof Top Air Conditioner with Heat Element	PGE121	EF2200IS	CTG2500i	P2400	P3000i
FJ3200-ADB-KIT	Dometic Freshjet 3200 Reverse Cycle Roof Top Air Conditioner	PGE121	EF2200IS	CTG2500i	P2400	P3000i
BR342-ADB-KIT	Dometic BR342 Reverse Cycle Roof Top Air Conditioner	EF2200IS	CTG2500i	P2400	EF2400IS	P3000i
CALR242-ADB-KIT	Dometic CALR242 Reverse Cycle Roof Top Air Conditioner	EF2200IS	CTG2500i	P2400	EF2400IS	P3000i
IBIS3-ADB-KIT	Dometic Aircommand Ibis MK3 Reverse Cycle Roof Top Air Conditioner	PGE121	EF2200IS	CTG2500i	P2400	P3000i
CORMORANT-ADB-KIT	Dometic Aircommand Cormorant Mk 2 Reverse Cycle Roof Top Air Conditioner	PGE121	EF2200IS	CTG2500i	P2400	P3000i
SPARROW-ADB-KIT	Dometic Aircommand Sparrow Reverse Cycle Roof Top Air Conditioner	PGE121	EF2000IS	EF2200IS	CTG2500i	P2400
AVENTACOMPACTPLUS	Truma Aventa Compact Plus Roof Top Air Conditioner	EF2200IS	CTG2500i	P2400	EF2400IS	P3000i
AVENTA MARK2-KIT	Truma Aventa Comfort Reverse Cycle Roof Top Air Conditioner	EF2200IS	CTG2500i	P2400	EF2400IS	P3000i
GRH085DA-K3NA1A	Gree Roof Top Slimline Air Conditioner 2.5 kW	EF2200IS	CTG2500i	P2400	EF2400IS	P3000i
GRH120DAK3NA2B	Gree Roof Top Slimline Air Conditioner 3.5 kW	EF2200IS	CTG2500i	P2400	EF2400IS	P3000i
HB2400	Houghton Belaire HB2400 Reverse Cycle Roof Top Air Conditioner	EF2200IS	CTG2500i	P2400	EF2400IS	P3000i
HB3400	Houghton Belaire HB3400 Reverse Cycle Roof Top Air Conditioner	EF2200IS	CTG2500i	P2400	EF2400IS	P3000i
HB3500	Houghton Belaire HB3500 Reverse Cycle Roof Top Air Conditioner	EF2200IS	CTG2500i	P2400	EF2400IS	P3000i

PGE121	EF2000IS	EF2200IS	CTG2500i	P2400	EF2400IS	P3000i
						
Dometic 1800W Inverter Generator	Yamaha 2000W Inverter Generator	Yamaha 2200W Inverter Generator	Cromtech 2400W Inverter Generator	Briggs & Stratton 2400W Inverter Generator	Yamaha 2400W Inverter Generator	Briggs & Stratton 3000W Inverter Generator

**Please note, this advice is general in nature and does not factor in other appliances running and drawing power at the same time as the air conditioner.*

RV PROTECTION

You need to consider what other costs are involved when buying a caravan or motorhome, like insurance for instance. I highly recommend getting an insurance quote from at least a couple of companies and compare them. ALWAYS read the fine print, as some insurance companies may be cheaper but may also cover less.

RV Insurers to Consider:

CIL: <https://www.cilinsurance.com.au>

RAA: <https://www.raa.com.au/motor/other-vehicle-insurance>

SGIC: <https://www.sgic.com.au/caravan-insurance>

Suncorp: <https://www.suncorp.com.au/insurance/motorhome.html>

Alliance: <https://www.allianz.com.au/car-insurance/caravan-and-trailer-insurance>

External/Internal Protection

If you're buying a new RV you may consider [VanTec](#), their system has proven that treated RV's retain their value. Vantec can treat the vehicles at the manufacturer's or dealer's premises.

Exterior: Vantec's revolutionary paint preservation treatment locks in the original colour, preventing chalking and makes light work of cleaning off road grime, tree sap and bird droppings.

Interior: Vantec's exclusive interior fabric protection will help prevent staining caused from spillage. Every fibre is treated with an invisible coating to protect all soft furnishings and other fabrics inside your caravan.

Extended Warranties: National warranty company offers aftermarket warranties for Caravans and Motorhomes with varying levels of cover depending on the age and condition of the unit. This cover is designed to offset the cost of repairs to your vehicle in the event of a breakdown. A higher level of cover is available for newer vehicles and the cover drops for older vehicles.

TERMANOLOGY/GLOSSY

Below are the most commonly used terms when it comes to caravans and motorhomes. We have included some American terminology here to make sure we have all bases covered.

Please note we use the term RV below as this covers caravans, motorhomes, camper vans, fifth wheelers, slide ons, and camper trailers.

A/C, AC: Air Conditioner.

AGM: Absorbed Glass Mat, a type of battery.

Amp, Amps: Ampere, amp for short, is the standard unit of electrical current. Amps refers to more than 1 amp.

AmpHour: A unit of electric charge, with sub-units milliampere-hour (mAh) and milliampere second (mAs). Whether your RV is 20, 30, or 50 amp, a simple way to look at the power available is to think of these numbers in terms of thousands. For example, at 115v AC, 30 amps equals 3,450 watts. For comparison, a common wattage for a microwave is 1000 watts. Volts x Amps = Watts. The AmpHour of a battery rating tells you how much amperage is available when discharged evenly over a 20 hour period.

Anode Rod: When used in a water heater, attracts corrosion causing products in the water. These products attack the anode rod instead of the metal tank itself, also known as a sacrificial anode.

ATV: All Terrain Vehicle

Awning: The retractable canopy found on just about every RV, designed to give shelter from the elements when you are outside your van.

Axle Ratio: The ratio between the pinion and ring gears in the differential that multiply the torque provided by the engine. It is the number of driveline revolutions required to turn the axle one time. As an example, with a 4.10:1 axle the drive line turns 4.1 times for each full axle revolution. The higher the number, the more torque and thus more towing power. However, the higher the number also means less speed.

Back-In Site: A campsite that requires you to back up into it.

Backup Monitor or Reverse Camera: A camera mounted on the rear of an RV with a remote screen viewable by the driver. Used to see what is behind you.

Ball Mount: The part of the hitch system that supports the hitch ball and connects it to the trailer coupler.

Black Water: The contents of the black water tank, human waste, sewage.

Boondocking: Camping in your RV without any hookups in a remote location. More commonly known in Australia as Free Camping.

Brake Controller: A control unit mounted inside the vehicle that allows the electric brakes on the trailer to become activated in harmony with the braking of the tow vehicle.

Break-Away System: A system designed to automatically lock the trailer brakes in the event of a hitch failure, where the trailer may break away from the tow vehicle.

BTU: British Thermal Unit, a measurement of heat that refers to the quantity required to raise the temperature of one pound of water 1°F or -17°C. A/Cs and furnaces are BTU-rated.

Bubble: Lots of meanings; roof bubble, bubble level, delamination bubble, etc.

Bypass Valve: The name for one or more valves that allow the fresh water supply to bypass the water heater.

Camper: Refers to the RV itself or the person using it.

Campground: Where you park your camper or pitch your tent.

Camp Host: Also known as a campground host, someone whose principal duty is to be a point of contact in the campground.

Cargo Weight: The actual weight of all items or gear added to a vehicle or RV.

Cassette Toilet: The most commonly used type of toilet system in Australia. All black water goes into a removable cassette that can be carried and disposed of in a waste dump point.

CCC: Cargo Carrying Capacity is the maximum allowable combined weight of all occupants and cargo carried in or on the vehicle. Also known as Payload in a caravan.

Chassis: The drive line or support system the Caravan or Motorhome is built on.

Condensation: Warm moisture laden air contacting a colder surface.

Converter: An electrical device for converting 240v AC power into 12v DC power.

Coupler: The part of the trailer that attaches to the ball of the hitch.

Curb Weight: The actual weight of a vehicle or trailer including all standard equipment with full fuel tanks, without people or gear.

DC: Direct Current in 12v electrical systems.

Deep Cycle: Refers to a battery type.

Delamination: A form of failure of an RV's exterior surface.

Diesel Puller: Motorhome with the diesel engine mounted in the front of the vehicle.

Diesel Pusher: Motorhome with the diesel engine mounted in the rear of the vehicle.

Dinette AKA Club Lounge: Booth-like dining area.

Dinghy: The vehicle towed behind an RV (Motorhome).

Dolly: Tow dolly.

Doughnut: A rubber ring that seals the dump hose and the campsite sewer connection so that gases and odors do not escape.

Dry Camping: Camping without any hook-ups, AKA free camping. Similar to Boondocking.

Dry Weight: The weight of the RV without any fuel, freshwater, gas or passengers.

DSI: Direct Spark Ignition. The burner is lit with an electric spark and the flame is monitored by an electronic circuit board.

Dual Electrical System: This is a system within an RV that allows it to run on both electric hookups within a campground, or self-contained on battery power or with a generator.

Dually: A pickup truck, or light-duty tow vehicle, with four tires on one rear axle.

Ducted A/C: Air conditioning supplied through a ducting system in the ceiling or walls. This supplies cooling air at various vents located throughout the RV.

Ducted Heat: Warm air from the furnace/heater supplied to various locations in the RV through a ducting system located in the floor.

Dump Station/Dump Point: Location where black water and grey water holding tanks are emptied.

Equalizing Hitch: Also referred to as a weight distributing hitch, this hitch allows for the weight of the trailer to be distributed both on the trailer's axle and the towing vehicle's front axle by use of spring bars.

FHU: Full Hook Up (water, electric and sewer)

Fiver, 5er: Another name for a fifth-wheel RV.

Flooded Wet Cell: A type of battery.

Fresh Water Tank: Tank used for storing potable water in an RV. Used for both drinking and cleaning.

Full Hookup: The ability to connect to all three of the campground's facilities; electric, water and sewer (mainly in Motorhomes for sewerage).

Full-Timers or Full-Timing: The term used for people who live in their RV full time.

Gelcoat: The outer layer of a fiberglass body material that results in a glossy finish.

Gel Cell: A type of battery.

Generator: A machine powered by petrol, diesel fuel or propane/gas used to generate 240v AC power.

Genset, Gen-Set: See Generator.

Gray Water: The water and waste from the sinks and shower.

GAWR: Gross Axle Weight Rating. The manufacturer's maximum load weight, that can be placed on the axle.

GCM: Gross combination mass, the combined weight of the tow vehicle and the trailer.

GCW: Gross Combined Weight. The combined weight of the tow vehicle and the trailer.

GCWR: Gross Combined Weight Rating. The manufacturer's maximum load weight allowed for the trailer and tow vehicle. This rating includes the weight of the trailer, tow vehicle, fuel, water, gas, supplies, and passengers.

GTW: Gross Trailer Weight. Gross trailer weight is the weight of the trailer fully loaded in its actual towing condition.

Guy Lines: Cords attached to the outside of an awning or trailer/tent to stabilise and tension the fabric.

GVW: Gross Vehicle Weight. The weight of the vehicle.

GVWR: Gross Vehicle Weight Rating. The manufacturer's maximum load weight allowed for the vehicle. This rating includes the weight of the vehicle plus fuel, water, gas, supplies, and passengers.

Heat Exchanger: A heat exchanger is a device that transfers heat from one source to another.

Heat Strip: A heat strip is an electric heating element located in the air conditioning system with the warm air distributed by the air conditioner fan and ducting system.

Hitch Rating: The weight, assigned by the manufacturer, that the hitch is designed to handle.

Hitch Weight: The amount of a trailer's weight that rests on the tow vehicle's hitch.

Holding Tanks: This term is used to describe the freshwater, gray water, and black water tanks.

Hookups: Connections that are available at any given campground are considered hookups. These include the basics such as electricity, water, and sewage, but can also refer to telephone and cable TV.

Hula Skirt: A skirt placed on the back bumper of a motorhome to stop debris that is thrown from the rear wheels from damaging vehicles behind the motorhome, either the vehicle you are towing or other vehicles behind the motorhome.

Inverter: A device that changes 12v battery power to 240v AC power.

Lithium-Ion Battery: These batteries are considered the best for RV use, as they are lighter and recharge quicker, and have lower maintenance needs, but are more expensive overall.

LP Gas: Liquefied Petroleum Gas, propane/gas.

Kerb Weight: The weight of a car without occupants or baggage.

Kingpin: A device that connects the fifth wheeler to the towing vehicle.

Macerator: An electrical pump that allows the content of black and gray tanks to be emptied into a remote sewer connection.

NCC: Net Carrying Capacity.

Part Timers: People who travel more than a few times a year - but who are not living the majority of time in their RV.

Pilot/Pilot light: Small standby flame that is used to light the main burner of a gas-fired appliance when the thermostat calls for heat.

Pin Weight: The weight that a fifth wheel trailer places on its kingpin.

Popup, Pop-Up: A folding camping trailer.

Porpoising: A term used to define the up and down motion in an RV while traveling.

Propane: See LP Gas. American.

Primitive Camping: Camping without any hookups. See Free Camping, Dry Camping, Boondocking.

Pull Through/Drive Through: A site where it is possible to pull/drive into the site and out of the site without ever needing to back in or out.

Puller: See Diesel Puller.

Pusher: See Diesel Pusher.

Quick Disconnect: Fittings that allow rapid connections to be made without the use of tools.

Ride Height: The distance between the ground and a specified point on a vehicle with correctly inflated tires.

Rig: A name some RVers use when describing their RVs.

RV: Recreation Vehicle.

RVCCA: Recreational Vehicle & Caravan Club Australia. www.rvclub.com.au a club for all campers, caravan and motorhome owners to join and enjoy.

Safety Chains: A set of chains that are attached to both the trailer A-Frame and the tow vehicle while towing.

Self Contained: A self-contained RV has the capability of supplying electrical, drain and water needs without any external hookups.

Slide-On: Refers to a Ute Camper that slides onto the tray of the ute.

Slide-Out: This term refers to an area within the RV that can be pushed out to expand the living space.

Solar, Solar Power: Power panels that generate power on your roof.

Thermocouple: A device that monitors the pilot flame of a pilot model gas appliance.

Two-way Fridge: A fridge that only uses 240v and Gas

Three-way Fridge: A fridge that can run off 12v (whilst travelling), Gas (used for free camping or when power isn't available) and 240v (Only used when on mains or generator power).

Toad: A "towed" vehicle. See Dinghy.

Tongue Weight: The downward force exerted on the hitch ball by the trailer coupler.

Tow Bar: A bar used for connecting a towed vehicle to the motorhome for towing with all four wheels on the ground.

Toy Hauler: Any RV type capable of carrying ATVs, golf carts, motorcycles, etc.

Trailer Brakes: Brakes that are built into the trailer and are activated either by electric impulse or by a surge mechanism.

TPMS: Tire Pressure Monitoring System.

Travel Trailer: A type of RV. American.

Truck Camper/Ute Camper: A type of RV.

Underbelly: The RV's underfloor surface, which is protected by a weatherproofed material.

VIN: A vehicle identification number, is a unique code including a serial number, used by the automotive industry to identify individual motor vehicles, towed vehicles etc.

Waste Water Tanks: The gray water tank holds the waste water from the sinks and showers. The black water tank/cartridge that holds the waste from the toilet.

Weight Carrying Hitch: A hitch designed to accept the entire hitch weight of the trailer.

Weight Distributing Hitch: A hitch that utilizes spring bars that are placed under tension to distribute a portion of the trailer's hitch weight to the tow vehicle's front axle and the trailer's axles.

Wet Weight: The weight of the RV with oil in the engine and with full fuel, fresh water, gray water, black water, and gas in the tanks.

Wheelbase: Distance between centerlines of the primary axles of a vehicle.

Wide Body: The term for an RV exceeding the normal eight feet wide. Wide Bodies are usually 102" (8' 6") wide.

WiFi: Wi-Fi is the name of a popular wireless networking technology that uses radio waves to provide wireless high-speed Internet and network connections.

Winterizing: A process of making an RV safe from the hazards of winter storage in cold climates.



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RESOURCES

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<https://www.rvrecipes.com.au> A FREE recipe resource you can use for inspiration whilst travelling Australia in your caravan or motorhome.

Handy Online Resources:

<https://www.caravansplus.com.au/guides> is packed with handy in depth guides from installation of RV accessories, to spare part reviews.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/caravanmotorhomesales/> and <https://www.facebook.com/groups/usedcaravans/> Facebook buy and sell groups for everyone, with proactive admins, and Australia wide audience.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/caravanandrowners> A new facebook owners group we have started. This is a group for all Caravan and Motorhome owners in Australia. You can discuss everything to do with this amazing lifestyle.

https://www.sanidumps.com/sanidumps_australia.php Where you can find the location of RV "dump stations" or "sani dump stations" or "dump points" based on local preference.

[CARAVANRVCAMPING](#) is Australia's largest online store for all things Caravans. They've got everything you could possibly need from the front of your 4WD, right through to the spare tyre on the back of your caravan. They specialise in caravan appliances, caravan accessories and spare parts.

[Hema Maps](#) stock all kinds of maps and navigation tools to help you explore Australia and overseas, including travel maps, wall maps, atlases, travel guides and books, GPS navigation products & mobile apps. There's no doubt they supply some of the best maps available.

<https://toiletmap.gov.au/> Public toilet map finder.

<https://gasbottlerefills.com/> Find the cheapest gas bottle refills and swaps in Australia

[Find A Doctor](#) Free, comprehensive, up-to-date directory of Australian private practising specialists and allied practitioners.

<https://www.getabout.edu.au/> training for your next 4WD or towing adventure is fun and safe. Whether you're just starting out or looking to advance your skills. Courses available in Canberra, NSW, QLD, SA, WA, Victoria (Not all courses available in all locations)

<https://sites.google.com/view/usefulsites> This site links to some of the most amazing and useful sites on the web. So whether you need a photo editor/converter or a disposable email address to avoid spam, this is the site for you.

www.rvclub.com.au/shop - We have released a clothing range made to appeal to the outdoorsy person.

POPULAR/MUST HAVE APPS

<https://www.campermate.com.au> Let CamperMate ride shotgun with you on the road in Australia and New Zealand and find epic campsites, nearby petrol, pet-friendly digs, things to do and a whole bunch more.

<https://www.wikicamps.com.au/> WikiCamps is the ultimate camping companion for your smartphone, tablet or Windows PC. With the largest and most up-to-date database of campgrounds, caravan parks, backpacker hostels, day use area, points of interest, information centres and public dump points you're sure to find what you're looking for.

<https://www.polarsteps.com/> helps you track and share your journeys in an easy and beautiful way, turning your travel moments into lifetime memories.

<https://emergencyapp.triplezero.gov.au/> The Emergency+ app is a free app developed by Australia's emergency services and their Government and industry partners. The app uses GPS functionality built into smartphones to help a Triple Zero (000) caller provide critical location details required to mobilise emergency services.

[Gas finder www.gasfinderapp.com.au](http://www.gasfinderapp.com.au) is a great app to find gas bottle refills and swap and go's

<http://fuelmap.com.au/> Fuel Map (Smartphone app) is a crowd-sourced database of petrol stations and fuel prices from all across Australia. All station information is added and edited by users like yourself.

<https://www.geocaching.com/play> Join the world's largest treasure hunt.

<https://checklist.com> Create your own checklists with this powerful yet easy to use TODO app to improve your productivity and pack ups.

<https://stjohnwa.com.au/online-resources/st-john-first-responder-app> Pinpointing your exact location can become difficult in an emergency situation. The St John First Responder App sends your GPS coordinates to the operator when you call Triple 000 for an ambulance, speeding up the time it takes to confirm your location and dispatch and ambulance.

RV BUYERS WISH LIST

This is designed so you can fill out all the fields and take it to a dealership with a complete RV wishlist (Ctrl+p to print). This list can be used to help you find the perfect RV to fit YOUR specific needs.

Information	Answer	Features	Yes / No / Maybe
My tow capacity is		Air Conditioner	
My Kerb weight is		Full Ensuite	
My G.C.M. Is		Combo Shower/Toilet	
Type of RV		Solar x1 x2 x3	
New Or Used		Battery x1 x2 x3	
Budget		Hot Water System	
Need Finance		Oven	
Trade In		Heater System	
Ideal Length		Washing Machine	
		External BBQ	

Draw your preferred floor plan below, ignore the A frame if you are a motorhome buyer.



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We welcome everyone, no matter how you travel.

Disclaimer

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