

ESCAPEES *RV* Club®
A TOTAL SUPPORT NETWORK FOR ALL RVERS

A white and black motorhome is shown from a front-three-quarter view, parked on a grassy field. The motorhome has a large front windshield, a prominent grille with a logo, and a side door with steps. The background is a hazy, open landscape.

**Choosing the
Right RV for You
Power Pack**

www.Escapees.com

WHAT WILL YOU BE DOING IN YOUR RV?

Will you be working in it? Hobbies? Are you a homebody? Or only to sleep?

WHO WILL BE TRAVELING?

Solo? Partner? Kids? Pets? Make sure to give everyone a space to sleep.

WHAT TYPE OF RVER ARE YOU?

Travel frequently? Snowbird? Boondocker? How does this affect your priorities?

YOU AND YOUR FAMILY ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF THIS DECISION.

WHAT ARE YOUR NEEDS AND WANTS IN AN RV?

Prioritize your needs and wants. Make sure to think hard about what you need vs what you want.

NEEDS

WANTS

RV shopping can be a fun, but overwhelming experience. We have created this guide and cheat sheet to help you remember what to look for when you are checking out all of those RVs and to help you remember what you saw by the time you get home.

TIPS FOR RV SHOPPING:

Plan how much time you want to spend shopping on your outing. RV shopping can easily take a whole day.

Use our cheat sheet while you walk through the RVs to help you remember to check for the things that are important to you.

Keep a running list of your top 3 RVs. Constantly update the list as you find RVs that are better suited for you than the ones in your top 3.

Remember what type of camping you want to do. This lifestyle is different than living in a house. For instance, features that may make sense in a house, like a residential fridge, can make it a bit more difficult to camp off-grid.

Take a picture of the sales sheet or model sticker on the RV before you start taking pictures of the RV. This will help you to keep track of which pictures go with which RVs. They will all start to blur together after a while.

Save the million dollar luxury RVs for the end after you have seen your prospects. Unless you came for the million dollar RVs!

WHAT TO BRING:

Comfortable shoes

Cheat sheets, notebook, and pen

Camera

Water

An open and happy attitude

A bag to carry brochures

Remember most of this info is online so you don't need to carry around pounds of brochures.

Even if you aren't planning on buying a new RV, it can be helpful to attend RV shows to see many different types of RVs and floor plans all in one place. This can help you figure out what you like and don't like. And dealerships will carry new and used RVs to poke through. You can exhaust all the avenues when looking for RVs: shows, dealerships, and private sellers. You never know where you might find your ideal RV.

SHOW INFO - Record the dealer and salesman info for any RV of which you are particularly interested. Recording the date and time can help you to match up this sheet with your photos.

RV INFO - Use this area is to capture the RV Brand, Model, Year as well as the Dealer Stock number in case you want to contact the dealer later about this unit. You can also note the engine size and chassis manufacturer. This is especially helpful on diesel models.

PRICE INFO - This section is important to help you get a feel for "show pricing." By recording the MSRP and show price and then figuring out the percentage off, you will begin to see a trend in RV show pricing. It is quite common to see prices that are 20-30% off. Don't let these "show prices" get you too excited.

WEIGHTS - Weights are very important to all RVers. It is important to know the capacity of the RV with all your stuff in it.

OCOC (Occupant and Cargo Carrying Capacity) - Motorhomes and trailers will have a sticker on them that lists this capacity. If you cannot find it, ask a salesman to point it out to you. This is the weight capacity of "stuff" you can carry in the motorhome or trailer. For motorhomes, this includes the weight of the occupants, water, and your cargo (clothes, food, etc). Trailer considerations are water, and cargo.

GVWR (Gross Vehicle Weight Rating) - This is the weight of the RV or trailer at maximum capacity. In some states there are special licensing requirements if a motorhome is over 26,000 pounds.

GCWR (Gross Combined Weight Rating) - This is the maximum weight of the motorhome and any trailer or towed vehicle behind it. If you subtract the GVWR from the GCWR you can find out the maximum size vehicle or trailer you can tow. Some motorhomes can only tow up to 4000 pounds even though they may have a higher rated hitch.

TONGUE OR PIN WEIGHT - This is the downward force on the hitch of a truck or SUV that would be towing a trailer. This weight is important to make sure your tow vehicle is up to the challenge of pulling your trailer.

TANKS - Here you can list the capacity of the tanks in the RV. This information can be found in the RV brochure or on the manufacturer's website. Tank sizes are important when factoring the cargo carrying capacity and if you are considering camping while not connected to full hook-ups.

ELECTRICAL - You can record the type of electrical service, number of batteries in the RV and their size if you can find it. This will also help you to remember to look to see if it has an inverter and generator.

SLIDES - If the RVs you are looking at have slides, it is helpful to see if you can still access the critical areas of the RV while you are traveling. If these areas are accessible, it can make traveling more enjoyable on long days where you can stop and go to the bathroom or easily make lunch on the road.

RATINGS - This is an area where you can quickly go down the list and rate the livability of the RV. It's important to stand in the shower and sit on the toilet to make sure they are comfortable to use. It is also important to check the storage accessibility to make sure you are comfortable with the location and size of the storage doors when you have to pack and unpack the RV.

ESCAPEES RV Club[®]

RV SHOPPING CHEAT SHEET

SHOW INFO

SHOW NAME _____	DATE/TIME _____
DEALER NAME _____	DEALER PHONE _____
SALESMAN NAME _____	SALESMAN PHONE _____

RV INFO

BRAND _____

MODEL _____

UNIT NUMBER _____

YEAR _____ STOCK NUMBER _____

CLASS A CLASS B CLASS C FIFTH WHEEL TRAVEL TRAILER OTHER

GAS DIESEL _____ ENGINE SIZE / MANUFACTURER _____ CHASSIS MANUFACTURER

PRICE INFO

MSRP _____

SHOW PRICE _____

DIFFERENCE _____

DISCOUNT % _____

MSRP - SHOW PRICE = DIFFERENCE
DIFFERENCE / MSRP X 100 = DISCOUNT %

RATINGS

OVERALL (1) ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ (10)

LIVING ROOM (1) ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ (5)

KITCHEN (1) ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ (5)

BEDROOM (1) ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ (5)

CLOSET SPACE (1) ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ (5)

BATHROOM (1) ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ (5)

SHOWER SIZE (1) ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ (5)

TOILET ACCESSIBILITY (1) ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ (5)

INTERIOR STORAGE (1) ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ (5)

EXTERIOR STORAGE (1) ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ (5)

STORAGE ACCESSIBILITY (1) ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ (5)

WEIGHTS

OCCC _____
OCCUPANT AND CARGO CARRYING CAPACITY

GVWR _____
GROSS VEHICLE WEIGHT RATING

GCWR _____
GROSS COMBINED WEIGHT RATING

TONGUE _____
TONGUE OR PIN WEIGHT ON TRAILERS

TANKS

FRESH _____
SIZE

GRAY _____
SIZE

BLACK _____
SIZE

PROPANE _____
SIZE

ELECTRICAL

30 AMP 50 AMP

BATTERIES _____
QUANTITY/SIZE

INVERTER _____
SIZE

GENERATOR _____
SIZE

SOLAR _____
PRE-WIRED SIZE

SLIDES

CAN YOU ACCESS THE FOLLOWING WITH THE SLIDES IN?

	YES	NO
FRIDGE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BATHROOM	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BEDROOM	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CLOTHES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

FEATURES

AIR CONDITIONER _____ QTY HEAT PUMP FURNACE _____ QTY WATER HEATER
GAS ELECTRIC TANKLESS

FRIDGE STOVE OVEN MICROWAVE WATER FILTRATION
GAS/ELEC RESIDENTIAL GAS ELECTRIC GAS CONVECTION

TV _____ QTY EXTERIOR TV EXTERIOR KITCHEN SATELLITE SLEEPS _____ QTY BUNKS _____

4 SEASONS RATED HEATED HOLDING TANKS HEATED BAYS DOUBLE PANE GLASS

LAYOUT SKETCH

NOTES
