

# WHAT TO LOOK FOR WHEN BUYING A USED RV



*Buying a used RV or trailer can be very exciting! Use this guide to help determine the condition of the unit you are looking at! At first glance, the RV may seem good, but taking the time to inspect the entire unit can reveal any potential issues.*

## 1 EXTERIOR SEALANT

Inspect all of the unit's sealant on the exterior walls and on the roof, look for any gaps or breakdowns that could allow water to enter. An easy way to find them is to run your finger along all sealant seams, you will feel any gaps. Sealant breakdowns are a sign that leads us to believe water damage may be present. While on the roof, inspect the roof vents for any cracks or damage and feel for soft spots when walking. Lastly, if the unit is fiberglass, inspect exterior walls for any waves or bubbles as this may be a sign of water damage.



## 2 TIRES/SUSPENSION

Inspect each tire for unusual wear, cracks, and check the date of production to see if the tires have been replaced recently, or will need to be replaced. Inspect the axle(s) and ensure they have a slight upward curve, and no dents or damage.

## 3 SLIDE-OUTS

If the RV you are looking at has any slide-outs, open them and ensure they operate smoothly. Slide systems can be adjusted, but can lead to extensive repairs if they are damaged.



## 4 INTERIOR INSPECTION

While you have the slides out, inspect the flooring for any soft spots or water-stained carpets. Inspect the ceiling carefully for any ripples or staining, both are signs of water damage. Open and check inside all cabinets and compartments for water damage.



## 5 WATER SYSTEM

If possible, test the water system by filling all holding tanks and checking for leaks. Use the toilet and inspect for leaks, as toilet valves are very common to break if improperly winterized. Ensure the monitor panel reads correctly for all holding tanks. Run the water pump to ensure water pressure and that the pump shuts off when not using water. Make sure the hot water tank is heating your water properly as well. Operate all taps and faucets, don't forget the exterior shower!

## 6 PROPANE SYSTEM

Check propane bottle dates and ensure they are not older than 10 years (date is stamped on the handles generally). Run the interior appliances such as oven, fridge, and furnace to verify they operate as designed.



## 7 CHARGING SYSTEM

Inspect batteries for corrosion on the terminals, bulging of the battery case, and the date of production. Bulging may be due to a frozen battery, and batteries that are older than 6 years should be replaced. Operate all lights and electronics, both inside and out. Check for power when plugged into shore power, and when running off batteries alone.



## 8 BRING IT IN!

After having a look at the RV or trailer, you are unsure about the condition, bring it into Neil's RV and we can do a full inspection or pinpoint your areas of concern! You can never be too careful when shopping for used RV's and trailers.