Used campervan buying checklist

1 / Vehicle identity and mechanical condition

Yes = satisfactory or explained. No = fault, unknown or not demonstrated. N/A = not applicable. Record concerns in the notes.

Registration / make / model _____

Mileage / asking price _____

Seller / viewing date _____

Paperwork and history

Check	Yes	No	N/A
VIN and registration match V5C; seller identity and address checked.	☐	☐	☐
MOT history, mileage, advisories and outstanding recalls checked.	☐	☐	☐
Finance, theft and insurance write-off history checked independently.	☐	☐	☐
Service history and timing belt schedule reviewed where applicable.	☐	☐	☐
My chosen insurer can cover the existing conversion and intended upgrades.	☐	☐	☐

Vehicle inspection

Check	Yes	No	N/A
Bodywork, sills and visible underside checked for corrosion or damage.	☐	☐	☐
Tyres, wheel load ratings, lights, glass and wipers checked.	☐	☐	☐
Cold engine start, warning lights and visible fluid leaks checked.	☐	☐	☐
Oil and coolant checked as handbook permits; never open a hot coolant cap.	☐	☐	☐
Independent mechanical inspection arranged if uncertain.	☐	☐	☐

Notes / action required

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Used campervan buying checklist

2 / Conversion quality and safety

Yes = satisfactory or explained. No = fault, unknown or not demonstrated. N/A = not applicable. Record concerns in the notes.

Living accommodation

Check	Yes	No	N/A
No obvious damp, mould, water stains or soft flooring.	☐	☐	☐
Roof, window seals, pop-top canvas and locking catches checked.	☐	☐	☐
Furniture and equipment appear securely mounted.	☐	☐	☐
Additional travel seats and belts: installation explained; evidence requested where available.	☐	☐	☐
Who installed electrical, gas and structural systems established where possible; available records or photos requested.	☐	☐	☐
Smoke and suitable carbon monoxide alarms and escape routes checked.	☐	☐	☐
Battery condition, charging, hook-up and inverter visually checked where accessible.	☐	☐	☐
Accessible gas locker and permanent ventilation appear suitable; specialist assessment arranged if uncertain.	☐	☐	☐
Water tanks, taps, drains and visible leaks checked.	☐	☐	☐
Permitted total and axle weights confirmed; actual loaded weight and available weighbridge evidence discussed.	☐	☐	☐
Independent assessment arranged for safety-critical systems that cannot be adequately assessed.	☐	☐	☐

Notes / action required

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3 / Questions to ask the seller

Yes = satisfactory or explained. No = fault, unknown or not demonstrated. N/A = not applicable. Record concerns in the notes.

Ownership and conversion history

Check	Yes	No	N/A
Reason for selling explained.	☐	☐	☐
Length of ownership established.	☐	☐	☐
Original converter or self-builder identified where possible.	☐	☐	☐
Later modifications and upgrades explained.	☐	☐	☐
Previous water ingress, damp or repairs discussed.	☐	☐	☐
Known faults and intermittent problems disclosed.	☐	☐	☐
Typical time camping without hook-up discussed.	☐	☐	☐
Age and type of leisure batteries established.	☐	☐	☐
Included accessories, keys and equipment agreed.	☐	☐	☐
Overall vehicle height including roof accessories established.	☐	☐	☐
Unfinished jobs or planned upgrades discussed.	☐	☐	☐
Available manuals, photographs, receipts and inspection records requested.	☐	☐	☐
Completed vehicle weighing discussed; weighbridge ticket requested if available.	☐	☐	☐

Notes / action required

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Used campervan buying checklist

4 / Ask the seller to demonstrate

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Operating the campervan

Check	Yes	No	N/A
Switch on and operate leisure electrics and battery monitor.	☐	☐	☐
Explain how leisure batteries charge and locate fuses and isolation switches.	☐	☐	☐
Connect and disconnect electrical hook-up safely; operate inverter if fitted.	☐	☐	☐
Operate heating and adjust temperature.	☐	☐	☐
Identify gas type and explain safe replacement or refilling.	☐	☐	☐
Locate gas isolation valves.	☐	☐	☐
Operate cooker and fridge.	☐	☐	☐
Fill, drain and clean fresh-water system.	☐	☐	☐
Empty waste-water tank at an appropriate disposal point.	☐	☐	☐
Operate, empty and clean toilet at an appropriate disposal point.	☐	☐	☐
Operate hot-water system and shower.	☐	☐	☐
Raise, lower and secure pop-top.	☐	☐	☐
Set up beds and return seats to safe travelling positions.	☐	☐	☐
Operate and secure awning.	☐	☐	☐
Explain winter storage and frost protection.	☐	☐	☐

A demonstration is not proof of a safe installation. Do not operate equipment suspected to be faulty.

Notes / action required

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Used campervan buying checklist

5 / Test drive, costs and buying decision

Yes = satisfactory or explained. No = fault, unknown or not demonstrated. N/A = not applicable. Record concerns in the notes.

Test drive and final checks

Check	Yes	No	N/A
Permission and insurance confirmed before driving.	☐	☐	☐
Steering, brakes, clutch or gearbox and unusual noises checked.	☐	☐	☐
Temperature and dashboard warnings checked during drive.	☐	☐	☐
Independent inspections completed where needed; unresolved safety, identity or finance concerns addressed.	☐	☐	☐
Documents, keys, written sale terms, receipt and payment arrangements agreed.	☐	☐	☐
My insurance arranged before collection.	☐	☐	☐

Agreed price £ _____

Mechanical repairs £ _____

Habitation repairs / inspection £ _____

Insurance / tax / other costs £ _____

Total estimated cost £ _____

Deposit / payment terms _____

Seller promises in writing _____

Notes / action required

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A note about self-built campervans

Many excellent campervans are owner-built. Missing certificates or invoices do not automatically mean poor workmanship or an unsafe conversion. Ask about materials, equipment and workmanship, and request available photographs, receipts or inspection records. If uncertain about gas, electrics, structural alterations or travelling seats, arrange an independent assessment by a suitably competent specialist before buying. This checklist is not a substitute for a professional vehicle or habitation inspection.

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