

## So You Want to Be an RVer?

### *How to Decide if RVing is for You*

This is a "cheat sheet" of sorts for those who have pondered the RV Lifestyle. It's a quick read and a simple guide to help you think through options. Use it as a checklist to figure out if RVing is for you. Begin with these three steps to help get your "ACT" together:

**A = Ask Yourself What You Want**

**C = Check Things Out**

**T = Try It on for Size**

### Ask Yourself What You Want

We're not talking about any in-depth evaluation of inner motives here. Just a little time thinking about what you want out of your RVing experiences. Try the drill of "Who, What, When, Where, How & Why?" If you want to make this more meaningful, don't just ask and answer these questions in your head. Put them down on paper.

**Who:** Who else is in this with you? What's important to them? Let's say you're thinking about buying a camper for affordable RV vacations. You want to enjoy the great outdoors, bring the family closer together. You imagine fishing in peaceful solitude, or old-fashioned good times. Before you get too carried away... make sure the rest of the family is on the same wavelength. Continue that mental picture in your mind as you continue through this mental exercise. The specific questions you ask yourself will depend on your circumstances.

**What:** What are you going to use an RV for? How often? To go where? For how long? Will you stay in one place awhile or move every couple days? What features do you think are important to you in an RV?

**When:** When do you want to do this? What time of year, at what point in the future, does it matter?

**Where:** are you going to keep the RV? Where do you want to go?  
How: How does this fit with other hobbies and interests you have or want to explore? Do you need to take golf clubs, bicycles, or fishing gear with you? How are you going to afford it?

**Why:** Why are you thinking of RVing? As your everyday lifestyle, or a family vacation, or a way to winter in warmer climates? Is this for retirement, for now, or a bit of both? Why are you attracted to the idea?

*Sidebar: This is not a test. There are no right and wrong answers. Heck, you don't even need answers at this point. But asking yourself some questions starts momentum. It triggers possibilities. It gets ideas rolling around in your brain. And starts some conversations held with the people who are in this with you.*

Asking tells you what you don't know... so you can...

## Check Things Out:

Learn. You have probably heard the expression "Getting there is Half the Fun". A perfect theme for the RV lifestyle itself.

Well, it's also appropriate in the context of checking things out. The learning about RVing, the anticipation - is truly half the fun.

There is plenty to explore, none of it boring. Here are some key subjects to get you started:

- [Types of RVs](#)
- [Campgrounds](#)
- [RV Buying](#)
- [New vs. Used](#)
- [RV Clubs](#)
- [Fulltiming](#)
- [RV Costs](#)
- [Top Tips](#)
- [RVer Jobs](#)

**MUST-DO:** [Read some books](#) . We can't stress this enough. It is essential to get some different perspectives and get the wheels turning in your own head.

**SEE IT IN ACTION** with these [easy-to-understand RV DVDs](#). Putting a visual to the subject matter is a great way to learn, and provides handy reference material.



Your RV Lifestyle

## Try It On for Size:

Whenever you can find a way to try something out, do so. It really helps you visualize the RV Lifestyle and it's fun!

[Go to RV Shows:](#) Check out the different models, dealers, manufacturers. Sit in the RV's, open cabinets and drawers. Imagine yourself spending time in them.

Take out that mental picture of your RV lifestyle. See yourself doing everyday tasks in the various models on display. Or envision those family vacations and how everyone will use the living area. Check out storage space inside and out.

Talk to other people who are there looking around. You will learn from their experience. Some of them will be looking for a new RV. Probably comparing features they like or don't like to their current RV, or perhaps to the one before that. They may mention things you never even thought about.

[Rent an RV:](#) If you have never traveled in an RV, definitely rent one and go on a trip before you buy. Even if the type of RV you rent isn't the same type as you might buy, it will give you a sense of the experience. And it may highlight desired features that you haven't yet considered.

[Go to an RV rally:](#) If you can, go to an RV rally - maybe in a rental RV, maybe with an RVing friend. RV rallies are held by RV clubs, manufacturers and RV associations and organizations.

Rallies can be small get-togethers or huge association events. No matter what the size, they are a great opportunity to talk with other RVers. And at the larger rallies, you can attend seminars, browse the vendor booths and look at the many RVs for sale.



By the way, don't think you have to figure it all out. When we bought our motorhome, we sure didn't know everything under the sun about how RVs worked or how we would live. But we had done our reading and tried things and talked things out. We were comfortable that we had our act together to make some key decisions.

And now, we learn as we go - it's part of RV living. And it all started when we took action. So, go ahead and **ACT**. And enjoy the journey!

### **Important Resources:**

- ❖ **[Good Sam Club](#)** : Even if you don't have an RV, join just to get the "Highways" magazine and learn about RVing. This popular club also provides important RV products and services at a discount, such as Good Sam [Emergency Road Service](#), [VIP Insurance](#), and their RV [Continued Service Plan](#).
- ❖ **[RV Books](#)** : A wealth of information in these popular and interesting selections. A GREAT WAY TO GET STARTED. And a variety of helpful directories, too.
- ❖ **[Quicken](#)** : If you don't already track your day-to-day expenses, start now. In planning for an RV lifestyle, vacations and/or retirement - it is a huge help to understand your current spending patterns.
- ❖ **[SBI!](#)** : A personal favorite! Site Build It! Is the magic that helped us build our site, increase our income and share our experiences with other RVers. Check out the special prize inside!
- ❖ **[RV Clubs](#)**: A variety of RV Clubs that provide support and discounts to RVers.
- ❖ **[Guide to Your RV Lifestyle](#)** : A complete listing of relevant topics for your RV lifestyle.
- ❖ **[Camping World](#)** : A favorite among RVers. Browse the variety of products; check out internet-only specials. Even this can be a learning experience as you research the RV lifestyle.
- ❖ **[RV Travel Destinations](#)**: A bunch of places to go with tips from our own experience.
- ❖ **[RV Days](#)** : Everyday Advice for All RVers.