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Newsletter

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2020 Abbreviations Could Lead to Check Fraud

JANUARY 3, 2020

by: **RV PRO Staff**

The new year is giving scammers an easy way to forge documents, but business owners can protect themselves with an easy New Year's resolution: Stop abbreviating the year.

This story by Sarah Brookbank and Joel Shannon originally appeared in USA Today.

This year's abbreviation is easily changeable and could be used against you. The concern is that scammers could easily manipulate a document dated "1/1/20" into "1/1/2000" or even "1/1/2021."

Writing out the full date "could possibly protect you and prevent legal issues on paperwork," according to Hamilton County, Ohio, Auditor Dusty Rhodes.

While it's early in the year for examples of this kind of fraud to emerge, the threat is real according to Ira Rheingold, the executive director of the National Association of Consumer Advocates. Rheingold said scammers could use the method to establish an unpaid debt or to attempt to cash an old check.

In the future, post-dating could be a problem too. For example, a check dated "1/1/20" could become "1/1/2021" next year, possibly making the uncashed check active again, Rheingold wrote. A similar method could be used for debts that are past the statute of limits.

The solution is easy: There's no harm in writing the full date. Writing the month out can also help.

Trends: Slowdown in RV Shipments to Ease in 2020

JANUARY 3, 2020

by: **RV PRO Staff**

The RV industry is influenced by many strong macroeconomic factors and is extremely sensitive to overall strength of the economy, as buying an RV is a large discretionary purchase for the majority of customers.

This story by Rimmi Singhi originally appeared in Yahoo! Finance.

The RV industry took a massive hit during the 2008 recession but has enjoyed exponential growth since then. Aided by broader economic recovery and growing popularity of van life movement among millennials, the RV industry has recovered significantly, with total shipments surging around 192 percent from 2009 to 2018 timeframe.

Year 2018 saw the second highest RV unit shipments volume ever and the highest total retail value. Wholesale shipments ended 2018 with 483,672 units, witnessing 4.1-percent decline from the record level achieved in 2017.

Amid global recession worries, RV industry is feeling the pain, with shipments declining in 2019. However, things appear a little encouraging as head into 2020.

Shipments of RV are anticipated to fall 16.9 percent year over year in 2019 to 402,100 units. Notably, the U.S.-Sino trade dispute and subsequent tariff war not only affected the economies of the U.S. and China but also slowed global economic growth. With the weakening of the economy, RV sales generally fall sharply, as consumers do not feel confident about making a large recreational purchase.

Towable RVs for 2019 are projected to be 355,600 units, down 19.8 percent, whereas motorhome shipments are expected to fall 19.2 percent year over year to 57,585 units.

The RV Industry Association expects the double-digits percentage declines in wholesale shipments to ease significantly in 2020. It forecasts wholesale shipments to come in at 386,400 units in 2020, representing 3.9 percent decline year over year. Towable RVs and motorhome shipments are forecast to end 2020 with 344,400 and 42,000 units, respectively.

Compared to 2019, the year 2020 is expected to witness a much lower year-over-year decline in RV shipments on the back of improving U.S. economic growth and de-escalation in the trade fight between the world's two largest economies, both of which saw positive updates recently in terms of business growth.

10 Places Where You Should Absolutely Never Take Your RV

By Christina Nellemann

From bottleneck highways to steep roads, these ten places in the U.S. are just not meant for driving your RV, no matter what size it is.

While it might be tempting to take your camper or trailer everywhere you want to go, there are a few places in our country you will want to steer clear of.

These can include crowded parks, congested highways, crazy streets or steep, winding roads. While some of these places might be better during some parts of the year (or day), if you want to see them, leave the RV at home.

1. Going-to-the-Sun Road, Glacier National Park The main road through beautiful Glacier National Park is Going-to-the-Sun Road—named after a Blackfoot Nation god. You are not actually allowed to take any trailers up this steep, winding road that goes over the 6,646 Logan Pass, and park rangers will stop you along the way if your vehicle is longer than 21 feet.

In addition, the road is closed a majority of the year due to heavy snow. The best way to see the stunning views from this road is to park your RV in one of the lower elevation campgrounds and explore in a smaller vehicle or via the park's public transportation.

2. Downtown San Francisco, California One of the most beautiful cities in the U.S. is also one of the most frustrating for drivers. While the traffic on the outskirts of San Francisco is excruciating on a good day, the hilly and crowded streets inside the city are worse.

Do not attempt to take your trailer or RV onto streets like Filbert Street for its views of San Francisco Bay or Coit Tower (and its 31.5% grade). Also, stay far, far away from crooked Lombard Street. In fact, keep your camper out of San Francisco altogether.

3. Tuweep, Grand Canyon One of the best and most famous views of the Grand Canyon is shot from the Toroweap Overlook near the Tuweep Campground. This rugged part of the park is also a bad place to take an RV or to tow a camper. While there is a small campground, you will need to get a reservation permit before you go.

The 60-mile road to the overlook requires a high clearance vehicle and anything longer than 22 feet is prohibited. In addition, the campground doesn't have any water, and should you have any vehicle issues, tow services can hit \$2,000.

4. New York City, New York Not too many people want to go camping in the Big Apple, but the bright light and many sights might tempt some RVers to head into the city. New York's streets, bridges, and tunnels (particularly Queens and Manhattan) are crowded, frustrating, and you may spend many hours cursing out other drivers.

If you want to visit the city, stay safe and park your RV in nearby New Jersey and take the train.

5. State Route 1, California One of the most beautiful roads in the U.S. is also one of the most frustrating, especially in an RV. State Route 1 runs along most of California's coastline above steep cliffs that drop precariously down to the Pacific Ocean.

If that's not enough, the two-lane road curves and twists along the ocean cliffs where rocks and boulders frequently fall.

Going a few dozen miles could take hours and you will have some angry California drivers behind you the entire way. In addition, if you have a Class A or trailer longer than 45 feet, State Route 1 is restricted.

6. Death Valley, California During the winter and spring, camping in Death Valley is a delight. However, in summer, stay far away from campgrounds without hookups (and the necessary AC) like Furnace Creek or Sunset.

Temperatures in summer can reach 130 degrees F, cooking anyone inside a camper. Heat-related deaths are common during this time of year and tend to happen off of dirt roads that are not on any GPS.

7. Dalton Highway, Alaska Most highways in Alaska are beautifully paved and well cared for. The Dalton Highway, also known as the "haul road" is the exception. This road begins 84 miles north of Fairbanks and ends near the Arctic Ocean.

The route twists and turns for 414 miles and is primarily used by commercial trucks. It's so dangerous that twice a day, a helicopter patrols the road looking for accidents.

8. Madison Campground, Yellowstone National Park Yellowstone National Park is one of the most-visited National Parks in the nation and that means lots of summer and fall crowds. There are many great campgrounds within the park but stay away from Madison Campground on the west side of the park.

While it might be tempting to take your camper or trailer everywhere you want to go, there are a few places in our country you will want to steer clear of.

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10. Interstate 90, Chicago Every year the American Highway Users Alliance ranks America's worst bottlenecks, and in 2015, Interstate 90 near Chicago O'Hare International Airport was the worst in the nation (and cost drivers 16.9 million hours of wasted time).

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Complete Guide Of State Towing Speeds & Laws You May Not Know

By Christina Nellemann

If you are used to towing your trailer around the the U.S., you probably know that maximum towing speeds vary in each state and U.S territories. If you are a new RVer and want to go exploring beyond your own backyard, check out this list of each state's towing speed limits you will see on most highways and interstates.

In addition, we are including some camping and towing laws you might not be familiar with!

The best way to get the most up-to-date information for each state is to contact the Department of Transportation or the Highway Patrol of each state you plan to drive through. Of course, no matter where you are towing your travel trailer keep your eyes on the road and always follow whatever limit is posted.

Other Facts:

- Passenger are actually allowed to ride inside trailers, fifth wheels and truck campers in Arizona and Indiana.
- In Alaska and Montana, RVers are required to carry flares in their travel trailer.
- **Did you know?:** Liquid propane is prohibited in all New York tunnels.
- North Carolina requires travel trailers of 1,000 lbs. or more to have an independent brake system.
- **Did you know?:** Rhode Island does allow overnight parking in state rest areas.

- Virginia only allows travel trailers to carry two propane cylinders.

This list includes the maximum towing speeds for each state.

Alabama

Towing speed limit: 55 mph

Did you know?: RVers are required to keep their headlights on when towing in Alabama.

Alaska

Towing speed limit: 55 mph

Did you know?: RVers are required to carry flares or reflective signs, fire extinguishers and a gas detector in Alaska.

Arizona

Towing speed limit: 65 mph

Did you know?: Triple towing is allowed with a fifth wheel.

Arkansas

Towing speed limit: 65 mph

Did you know?: Overnight parking in rest areas is allowed unless posted otherwise.

California

Towing speed limit: 55 mph

Did you know?: Vehicles towing in California are restricted to the right hand lane.

Colorado

Towing speed limit: 65 mph

Did you know?: Colorado allows you to tow two trailers at once.

Connecticut

Towing speed limit: 55 mph

Did you know?: RVs are not allowed in carpool lanes in Connecticut.

Delaware

Towing speed limit: 55 mph

Did you know?: Delaware requires two separate ways to apply both vehicle and trailer brakes.

District of Columbia

Towing speed limit: 55 mph

Did you know?: The maximum RV width is 8 feet.

Florida

Towing speed limit: 65 mph

Did you know?: Florida does not allow double or triple towing.

Georgia

Towing speed limit: 65 mph

Did you know?: Overnight parking in rest areas is not allowed in Georgia.

Hawaii

Towing speed limit: 55 mph

Did you know?: The maximum trailer length in Hawaii is 48 feet.

Idaho

Towing speed limit: 65 mph

Did you know?: Passengers are allowed to ride inside truck campers.

Illinois

Towing speed limit: 55 mph

Did you know?: Trailers are not allowed on boulevards in and around Chicago.

Indiana

Towing speed limit: 65 mph

Did you know?: The maximum motorhome length in Indiana is 45 feet.

Iowa

Towing speed limit: 65 mph

Did you know?: Passengers are allowed to ride in fifth wheels, travel trailers and pickup campers.

Kansas

Towing speed limit: 65 mph

Did you know?: Kansas allows trailers and RVs up to 14 feet in height.

Kentucky

Towing speed limit: 65 mph

Did you know?: Kentucky law does not specifically require brakes on any passenger car trailers, regardless of weight.

Louisiana

Towing speed limit: 65 mph

Did you know?: Passengers are permitted to ride in pickup campers only.

Maine

Towing speed limit: 65 mph

Did you know?: Maine only allows one boat or travel trailer to be towed.

Maryland

Towing speed limit: 55 mph

Did you know?: Maryland does not allow liquid propane gas in some I-95 tunnels.

Massachusetts

Towing speed limit: 55 mph

Did you know?: Trailers are not permitted on many parkways in the Boston area.

Michigan

Towing speed limit: 65 mph

Did you know?: In Michigan, trailer tires must have a minimum tread of 2/32 inches.

Minnesota

Towing speed limit: 65 mph

Did you know?: Minnesota allows triple towing, but only a fifth wheel and watercraft/ATV/motorcycle/snowmobile combo.

Mississippi

Towing speed limit: 65 mph

Did you know?: Passengers are not allowed to ride in any fifth wheel, travel trailer or pickup camper.

Missouri

Towing speed limit: 65 mph

Did you know?: Missouri only requires a brake system on 5th wheel trailers.

Montana

Towing speed limit: 65 mph

Did you know?: All RVs are required to carry flares or reflective signs.

Nebraska

Towing speed limit: 65 mph

Did you know?: All RVs are required to have flares or reflective signs.

Nevada

Towing speed limit: 65 mph

Did you know?: In Nevada drivers and passengers cannot have an open alcoholic beverage container inside the tow vehicle, however open containers are allowed in the living area of a motorhome or travel trailer.

New Hampshire

Towing speed limit: 65 mph

Did you know?: Overnight parking in New Hampshire rest areas is not allowed.

New Jersey

Towing speed limit: 55 mph

Did you know?: Open propane cylinders are not allowed while traveling on New Jersey open highways.

New Mexico

Towing speed limit: 65 mph

Did you know?: Overnight parking in rest areas is allowed, but no more than 24 hours in any three-day period in the same area.

New York

Towing speed limit: 55 mph

North Carolina

Towing speed limit: 65 mph

Did you know?: North Carolina requires an independent brake system for travel trailers of 1,000 lbs. or more.

North Dakota

Towing speed limit: 65 mph

Did you know?: Every trailer doing at a speed of 25 mph must have safety chains attached to the tow vehicle.

Ohio

Towing speed limit: 65 mph

Did you know?: Brakes are required if the trailer has an empty weight of over 2,000 lbs.

Oklahoma

Towing speed limit: 65 mph

Did you know?: Oklahoma state law requires that a maximum travel trailer length be under 40 feet.

Oregon

Towing speed limit: 65 mph

Did you know?: Oregon prohibits self-service dispensing at retail fuel stations.

Pennsylvania

Towing speed limit: 55 mph

Did you know?: Any trailer being towed in the state of Pennsylvania must be equipped with a fully functioning brake system.

Rhode Island

Towing speed limit: 55 mph

South Carolina

Towing speed limit: 65 mph

Did you know?: In South Carolina the total length limit of combined tow vehicle and travel trailer is 60 feet.

South Dakota

Towing speed limit: 65 mph

Did you know?: All towed vehicles, motor trucks or trailers over 8,000 lbs. must stop at weigh stations.

Tennessee

Towing speed limit: 65 mph

Did you know?: The maximum trailer width in Tennessee is 8 feet.

Texas

Towing speed limit: 60 mph during the day; 55 mph at night

Did you know?: Overnight parking in rest areas has a 24 hour limit.

Utah

Towing speed limit: 65 mph

Did you know?: Utah allows RVs and trailers up to 14 feet tall.

Vermont

Towing speed limit: 65 mph

Did you know?: All trailers traveling through Vermont are required to carry a useable fire extinguisher.

Virginia

Towing speed limit: 55 mph

Did you know?: Virginia only allows two propane gas tanks of 20 lbs. each per travel trailer.

Washington

Towing speed limit: 60 mph

Did you know?: Overnight parking is permitted in Washington state rest areas, but cannot exceed eight hours.

West Virginia

Towing speed limit: 65 mph

Did you know?: Triple towing is not allowed in West Virginia.

Wisconsin

Towing speed limit: 65 mph

Did you know?: Triple towing is allowed with a special permit.

Wyoming

Towing speed limit: 60 mph

Did you know?: When towing in Wyoming, you must be able to stop in 40 feet while driving at 20 mph.

WARNING: RV Scams You Should Be Aware Of Before Buying A New Or Used RV

For those new to the world of RVing, there are numerous opportunities to be “taken in” by the glitz and glamour of RVs and the RV lifestyle. Perusing RVs in a dealership’s showroom or at an RV show nearby can effectively cost you quite a few dollars!

There’s an overwhelmingly large variety of RVs to choose from, and if you don’t have a firm idea of what you’re looking for, you can easily be lured into buying something that is a better deal for the RV salesman than for *you*!

To play it safe, you should always have an idea in the back of your mind of what’s most practical for your particular situation.

Like most auto dealers, RV salesmen work on commission. Therefore, the more money they can get you to pay for something, the more money they earn.

Being knowledgeable in a car purchase is fairly easy. With online pricing guides such as Kelly Blue Book, you can enter the sales lot armed with enough information to keep the final dollar figure within a reasonable margin of what would be considered a good deal.

However, RVs are a different matter...

Buying From An RV Dealer It’s unlikely that you will find 2 RV dealers selling the same brand and model of RV — within a reasonable distance.

Some RV dealers specialize in trailers; others specialize in high-end motorhomes. By not selling the same type of RVs, they have eliminated competition. As a result, comparative shopping becomes a whole lot harder!

With limited resources on the Internet, it’s very difficult to determine whether the price you’re presented with is actually a fair price or not.

Buying At An RV Show RV shows can compound this problem, as some sales staff will use pressure tactics to get you to make a decision — today — *right now* on the spot. After all it’s a “sale” and if you act now “you’ll save money.”

While attending an RV show in Tucson a number of years ago, I was looking through a recently introduced diesel pusher motorhome. The salesman accompanying us (hot on our heels to make a sale) started at \$125,000. Within 45 seconds the price had dropped twice — down to \$95,000! Of course, we weren't about to buy a motorhome that day. But with those kind of tactics, who knows what the real value was?!

About RV Extended Warranties Extended warranties are another great way for an RV dealer to make money.

They buy the policy at a reduced rate, mark it up by a large percentage, then pressure you — the unsuspecting new RV owner — into buying it at the same time that you buy the RV. That way, they can conveniently roll it over into the financing plan that they can arrange for you right on the spot.

Oh by the way, in case you didn't realize it, the financing they arrange pays them a percentage as well!

To get the best price on an extended RV warranty, go back home and do your own research first. Take the time to find out exactly what is covered and what is not. That way, if and when you need to file a claim, there will be no nasty surprises.

You should choose a reputable insurance carrier. Otherwise, a fly-by-night company could go out of business right after the RV dealer has gotten their commission. No matter what, the RV dealer will get their money, and you will be the loser in the end.

How To Find A Reputable RV Dealer The best advice before you buy a new or used RV is to get to know the dealer.

If you do business with a company that's been in the same location for 30 years, odds are you're going to get a reasonable deal. After all, they have a reputation to protect.

I made the mistake of trusting a used car & RV outfit once. I traded in a car to buy a secondhand Class C mini-home. About 60 days later, I got a letter from my bank stating that the original loan on the car was in default.

Turns out, he wasn't able to resell my trade-in as fast as he thought he could and little did he care if my credit was damaged while the car sat on his lot. I brought a witness with me and confronted him on the issue, and with the threat of legal action he mysteriously was able to pay off the existing loan on my trade-in as was negotiated at the time of the sale.

I was on pins and needles waiting for the title to arrive on the Class C RV I had purchased through him though. At that point, I had serious doubts that he had a clear title to that either. Fortunately, everything worked out in the end, but I never did business with him again and he has long since gone out of business.

Do Some Homework One of the best things you can do to become knowledgeable when seriously shopping for your first or your next RV is to purchase a NADA Consumer Recreational Vehicle Appraisal Guide:

- NADA Appraisal Guide For Older RVs (1978-1997)
- NADA Appraisal Guide For Newer RVs (1998-present)

Being well armed with information will go a long way in raising your level of confidence when it comes time to negotiate with the sales staff.

Not all sales people are shysters, but it's up to you to work the best possible deal when making an RV purchase.

When is it Too Windy to Drive an RV?

December 31, 2019 June 14, 2019 by Mike Scarpignato

Any experienced RVer will tell you that driving an RV in windy conditions can be very dangerous. We all know how dangerous it is to drive in the rain and some of us have also experienced driving in the snow! But all too often we underestimate windy conditions. Why? Because you can't see the wind like you can see snow and rain but it can be just as dangerous if you aren't prepared. And we are used to driving our cars during very windy conditions with no problems at all. So, we are lulled into a false sense of security.

So, when is it too windy to drive an RV? A good rule thumb is to avoid driving an RV in winds that exceed 50 mph. Wind speeds approaching 60 mph are enough to overturn an RV. The larger the RV the more surface area. And the more surface area the more likely it is that the wind can tip you over.

Below we discuss many factors to consider when driving your RV in windy conditions, tips for driving in the wind and safety concerns, as well.

How Does the Wind Affect Driving an RV or Travel Trailer?

The wind is not something to disregard when driving your RV. One common problem with driving an RV in high winds, especially if it's a travel trailer being towed or an RV with a tow car behind is the trailer or tow vehicle can swerve into other lanes uncontrollably. I've been driving down the highway behind another truck towing a travel trailer and saw the wind catch the travel trailer. It began to shake and swerve back and forth uncontrollably.

Not only does this present a problem for the RV driver but also for the other drivers on the road. The swerving is caused by a side wind, or crosswind, that is wind blowing on either side of your RV. And that swerving can add to the force of the wind and cause the travel trailer to tip over.

A straight on wind poses a different issue. Head on wind will make your RV feel bumpy. This is called bucking. While safer than side winds it is still not to be taken lightly.

It's also important to understand how your particular vehicle behaves on the road because every RV is different in terms of balance and weight. Therefore it can take different levels of wind before it becomes a problem. However, If you experience either of these situations pull over and wait for the wind to calm down. It's not worth risking your life, or others, due to wind-related issues.

Can Wind Actually Tip An RV Over?

Yes, the wind can actually tip an RV over. Especially while driving. The force of the wind combined with the wind force generated by a moving RV or travel camper can create enough force to tip an RV over. If the wind exceeds 50 mph, it is a good idea to pull over and get off the road. An RV tipping over is not something you or anyone else on the road would like to see.

The likelihood of wind knocking over a parked RV is slim to none, but it will create a somewhat rocking feeling if you don't have leveling jacks. The last thing you want on your vacation is your living space to feel like a turbulent airplane.

Leveling jacks can help to stabilize your RV in addition to keeping your RV level. One way to try to prevent the full strength of wind hitting the side of your RV when parked is to park it so the front or rear is facing into the wind.

Driving Tips for Windy Conditions

The best tip for driving in windy conditions is to know your limitations. Driving limitations are all about what you are comfortable with. Some owners don't drive in winds over 20 mph while others are comfortable driving in winds up to 40 mph. Understanding your limitations is essential when determining your comfort zone so you know when it's time to pull over for a bit. Besides that, one of the things that can help immensely is investing in a sound suspension system. This includes things like installing anti-sway bars in the front and back of the vehicle as well as making sure you have good shocks installed.

Quite often, it is also raining when there is excessive wind. So good tires with deep tread can help reduce how much you might slide on the road. When dealing with high winds, it is vital to be more attentive to your surroundings when driving. For example, if you are driving in a heavily wooded area, the wind will not affect your vehicle as much as when you are driving in an open area. Just be aware of this and don't let the open area catch you by surprise.

Some other great tips for driving in wind are:

Be on the Lookout for Wind Restriction Warnings on the Highway Signs – very often the state highway signs on bridges or overpasses wind restrictions.

The Lighter Your RV the Greater the Risk of Tipping Over – Be aware of your RV weight. If you are traveling without supplies on board your RV will be lighter and at higher risk for tipping over.

Driver Slower – Remember that the faster you drive the more friction your RV creates with the air. Add that to the wind friction in high winds and enough energy can be created to tip you over.

Pull Over and Park – If it's too windy just wait it out. No destination is so important that it can't wait a day.

Check the Weather When Planning Your Trip – If you check the weather before you hit the road you may be able to drive around storms rather than straight into them.

Factors to Consider When Driving Your RV in Windy Conditions

The two biggest factors to consider when driving in the wind are RV weight and wind direction. What is your RV weight when loaded? In other words, did you pack heavy for a long trip or light for a weekend getaway? Obviously, the heavier the RV, the less likely wind is to become a factor. On the other hand, if the RV is lighter, you will have to pay closer attention to wind as it can become a factor with a smaller vehicle.

The factors to consider when driving your RV is the direction of the wind. Is the wind blowing toward your RV or against the side? And is the wind causing you to leave your lane while driving? Swerving out of your lane can be just as dangerous as tipping over. Especially if there are other drivers on the road.

Safe Driving Speeds for Windy Conditions

Because of the different shapes, sizes, and weights of RVs, there is no “one speed fits all” answer. The more susceptible your vehicle is to the wind, the slower you will need to go. It is also suggested that you try to stay about 10-20 mph below the posted speed limit. As for heavier vehicles, it can't hurt to knock 5-10 MPH off your normal speed just to be safe and not take any unnecessary risks.

Examples of RVs more likely to be affected by wind are fifth wheels, travel trailers, pop-ups, and in some cases, even class Bs. Vehicles that are large enough that they typically won't be heavily affected by a small amount wind include large, heavy fifth wheels, class A and Class C RVs. However, that doesn't mean wind can't affect your vehicle, and it is still beneficial to be safe and take the precautions.

How Much Wind is Too Much?

Generally speaking, wind over 50 mph is too much wind to safely drive your RV. But, if the wind is causing you to lose control of your RV then you should pull over and wait out the wind. It simply isn't worth continuing on if you know you are not in control of the RV. If you know ahead of time that wind is in the forecast for your trip, it may not be a bad idea to attempt to postpone your trip or drive around a storm.

What are Wind Restrictions?

In some areas, the local government implements wind restrictions, which substantially limit the traffic allowed on the roads while the wind is heavy. They typically restrict big trucks and RVs. This information is essential to check before departing for your trip. Otherwise, you could be in for an unfriendly surprise. Wind restrictions are usually implemented when there are winds of 50 mph or more for 10 minutes or more. Certain bridges also utilize wind restrictions, especially if they span over water because wind gusts are more likely in open areas. Please make sure you are doing your research before departing for your trip to ensure you won't run into any issues.

The wind is not something you should take lightly, and while the impact is different for different vehicles, it still affects everyone. It is best to use common sense while driving in heavy winds. If your RV feels out of control at all, it's time to pull over. It's also important to keep an eye on road signs for wind restrictions too. Hopefully, this article acted as a guide for how to handle windy conditions as an RV owner, be safe and happy traveling.

Do you have any tips or advice for driving an RV in high winds? Please share your comments below!

The Hard Side of RV Life

By Kyle & Olivia Brady | Founders of Drivin' & Vibin' | We use affiliate links and may receive a small commission on purchases.

Adjusting to RV life can be pretty hard at first. Making the choice to follow our dreams and live life on the road is one of the best decisions we've ever made, but it's definitely got its own unique set of challenges.

It's a major adjustment to leave behind the life you knew; You're saying goodbye to your house, your friends and family members, and probably your old job too. You're journeying into the unknown and that's HUGE. If you've made this transition or plan to, you're so very brave and you have a huge community out there to support you.

I wanted to share some things with you that have helped us in our journey. It can be difficult for some, especially in those first few months, but it gets so much easier and we're here to help. It just takes a little while to find your bearings.

SET REALISTIC EXPECTATIONS

People refer to RV life as a "permanent vacation" and that's just not true. We still have to work, keep up the laundry, buy groceries, and pay bills. We're not immune to stress and our problems don't disappear. RV life has some amazing perks, like exploring beautiful landscapes and changing your backyard whenever you want, but we do regular people stuff too.

You could be on the go all the time and moving every couple days, but we've found that we need balance so we don't burn ourselves out. Find that balance and a pace that works for you.

BE OPEN TO THE JOURNEY

Mindset is everything. If you approach things with an open heart, without expectations of what it "should" be you will save yourself a lot of grief. Almost nothing goes as planned when you want it to, so be flexible and learn to adapt.

Be open to changing plans. Not holding ourselves to strict schedules, has given us so much freedom. That doesn't mean there's no planning involved, but we give ourselves some wiggle room. We can add a few days or leave early if we want to. On actual travel days, we personally like to leave early and move no more than 200 miles. That may sound short, but it keeps us stress free and we still have the whole day ahead of us.

Sometimes you get a flat tire, or the campground is full or you get on the road later than expected... We like to have a lot of daylight to come up with a backup plan. No matter the obstacle, there's always a lesson to be learned from any situation. You just might end up learning a new skill, finding a great new camp spot, or making a new friend.

FIND YOUR TRIBE

We spent the first few months on the road navigating this new life by ourselves. We learned a lot in those months, but I can't even describe how much we grew once we found our place in the RVing community.

We found our tribe with the Xscapers, we met like-minded individuals, who understood the joys and struggles we faced. They helped us learn the ropes of boondocking, we learned about generators and solar and so much more. We shared stories, campfires and meals together and we still meet up every chance we get.

We had no idea how important this was to us, until we found it. We encourage you to find your tribe. Join a club, attend a rally, invite your neighbors over to your campfire. Just put yourself out there, you won't regret it.

NURTURE YOUR RELATIONSHIP

This may not apply to you, but if it does it's very important. Your partner is not your enemy. It will feel like it at times (ahem..backing up the trailer) but they are going to be your biggest support system. You're a team and it requires both of you for the ship to run smoothly. It will take a while to figure out your individual jobs, but once you do you will be unstoppable!

We tend to take our frustrations out on the ones closest to us, so its very important to communicate openly with your partner. Improving our communication skills have been key to avoiding conflict in our tiny space.

ENJOY THE RIDE

Your confidence will grow day by day and the experiences you have will be priceless. RV Life is filled with beautiful natural wonders and the most kind hearted people. Enjoy the journey and know that you made it happen.

As you grow and learn, don't be afraid to help out others who are just beginning. They may need advice or they may just need a friend, but it will mean the world. We had others show us the way and now its our duty to pass it on.

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