

Subject:

Apr 2022 Newsletter from Air Safe Hitches

April 2022

Newsletter

4/1/22

AIRSAFE Webinar 3/28/22 (Next 4/6/22)

Thank You to those that attended the first Webinar.

Items discussed:

Different classes of Receiver hitch and how to select the best for your application
Use of Weight Distribution
5th Wheel Adapters for Ford, GMC, and Dodge
History of Air Safe Hitches

Next Webinar

April 6th, 2:00PM EST

Answering your questions?

Lloyd Stegemann is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

I will be hosting a series of Zoom Webinar's to answer any questions you may have on our Air Safe Hitches.

(5th Wheel, Gooseneck, and Receivers)

To Join Zoom Meeting click the link below:

<https://zoom.us/j/98497486534?pwd=SWRieFY5a1BSMIRtT2JPLzRnejkrQT09>

Meeting ID: 984 9748 6534

Passcode: f4GF7h

The discussion is open to anyone that's wishes to attend.

If you have a suggestion of a date and time for the next meeting, please let me know.

If you would like to discuss anything in advance of our meeting, please contact me at (407) 973-2980

or email: LStegemann@AirSafeHitches.com.

I look forward to meeting and talking to you about Air Safe Hitches and discuss any questions you may have.

RV PRO Survey: Dealers Largely Optimistic on 2022

Brad Worrell March 10, 2022

RV dealers are largely optimistic in their outlook for this year, based upon *RV PRO*'s third annual dealer survey, conducted in January.

The survey results were published in the March issue of *RV PRO*, which can be accessed here, regarding how dealers rated RV manufacturers on product quality, warranty

policies, the ability to secure replacement parts, best PDI and best resale value.

Dealer Sales

Regarding their outlook on the year ahead, 31 percent of RV dealers told *RV PRO* they will sell even more RVs this year versus last year, while about 54 percent of dealers say they will sell roughly the same number of RVs this year as 2021. Only 15 percent of dealers expect their RV sales will be down this year compared to 2021.

Dealer Concerns

However, dealers also gave voice to some concerns in the reader survey. Notably, 57 percent of dealers surveyed said their current RV inventory levels are 50 percent or less of what they were compared to pre-COVID pandemic levels. An additional 25.5 percent of dealers said their inventory levels stand between roughly half and three-quarters of what they were compared to pre-COVID levels.

Whether RV manufacturers can keep dealers sufficiently supplied as the busy summer selling season kicks off remains to be seen. However, if OEMs fall short, it won't be for a lack of trying. Unemployment in Elkhart, Ind., is the lowest in the nation at 1.9 percent, as companies scramble for talent.

Top Dealer Concerns

Asked in the survey to rank their top three concerns, RV dealers cited supply chain issues, at 61.4 percent, inventory at 52.3 percent and labor at 51.3 percent. Inflation came in a close fourth at 40.1 percent.

Social Media and Other Communication Outlets

RV PRO's dealer survey also offered some insights regarding the tools dealers use to communicate with customers and fellow industry professionals.

By far, Facebook was the most common social media used by dealers, garnering 68 percent of the total. Instagram came in a distant second, at 3.5 percent, while LinkedIn came in third at 3 percent. Twitter and TikTok registered less than 1 percent each.

Notably, 24 percent of dealers say they don't use social media at all to communicate with customers.

When it comes to communicating with their fellow industry professionals, Facebook and LinkedIn garnered the largest numbers by far, with 39 percent and 28 percent, respectively. Less than 10 percent of dealers said they use Instagram, while 7 percent say they use Twitter and just 2 percent say they use TikTok.

Forty-four percent of dealers say they don't use social media to communicate with their fellow industry professionals.

Report: RV Owners Could Spend 30% More on Fuel This Year

RV PRO Staff March 10, 2022

Record-breaking numbers were seen Tuesday evening as gas prices continue to climb. The new national average is now \$4.20 a gallon.

High gas prices in previous years have taken a big toll on the economy, especially the RV industry.

As the busy travel season approaches, how concerned is the RV Industry with these rising gas prices?

An RV Industry Association spokesperson told WSBT that the worry is not on the production of RVs or the demand, but they do expect travelers to limit how far they go.

High fuel prices and the recession in 2008 hit the RV industry hard.

At one point, Elkhart County, Ind., had the highest unemployment in the country. Fast-forward

to the last couple of years and the pandemic has brought record RV sales to the county. Elkhart County has some of the lowest unemployment in the country.

On average, an RV owner will travel 4,500 miles a year. Last year's national average of gas was \$3 a gallon.

101 GUIDE ON HORSE TRAILERING (2021) | CHECKLIST FOR BUYING THE TRAILER THAT SUITS YOU

By Guest Author November 16, 2021

SHARE ON FACEBOOK TWEET ON TWITTER PIN ON PINTEREST

Most horses will travel to a new location at some point in their lives, be it for some competition, horse show, or for breeding. Investment in a good horse trailer is the very first step in the journey. A horse trailer gives you the freedom for you and your horse to be mobile. It opens a lot of opportunities for you and your horse to travel to trail rides, horse shows, exhibitions, horse vacations, educational events, and clinics.

Before hitting the road, it is very important you take all the necessary steps to ensure the safety of your horses while traveling and upon reaching the destination. Safe horse trailering demands thoughtful planning and good experience beforehand. Reaching the destination trouble-free while keeping the horses as comfortable as possible should be the foremost agenda on your list.

In this article, we have listed all the important information that would be useful for you in preparing for trailering your horses, during the journey, and after reaching the destination.

Before Traveling

Know your Equipment The first important thing before trailering your horses is to know what your truck or vehicle is capable of towing safely. Generally, trucks with large tow ratings have high-performance features such as heavy-duty springs, engines, frames, transmission, U-joints, brakes, and rear-axles. However, all these features have nothing to do with the payload of the truck, or how much it can carry in the back. Before towing, you should consider knowing the gross combination weight rating (GCWR) of the truck. GCWR includes the weight of the truck, the trailer it can tow, and the total cargo and truck the trailer can carry.

Secondly, you must know the maximum towing capacity of the entire hitch assembly. The hitch assembly consists of the insert, the receiver, the ball, and the tow vehicle. Be sure to check all the hitch components each time before you pull your trailer. Look for signs such as rust and corrosion, and bent or cracked components.

Choose your trailer wisely There are many types of trailers in the market such as tow-behind/bumper-pull, gooseneck, fifth wheel, slant loads, stock trailers, straight loads, and many more. Choose the best trailer to meet all your needs. There are also available custom-designed trailers from the renowned manufacturers of trailers across the world, such as double D trailers in USA, who specifically meet the needs of you and your horses.

The safest option is to choose the specific type of horse trailers that allow the handler to access each horse individually without disturbing or unloading other horses. In the case of an emergency too, these types of horse trailers would make a big difference. Make sure that the horse trailer you are choosing must have electric brakes, breakaway brakes, and safety chains. Other than this, you should also make sure that you have mirrors mounted on the vehicle for towing. They should be positioned at correct angles for optimal visibility of the trailer and the road around it.

Important tips for the safety and maintenance of the trailer

If you are an amateur in horse trailering, then you should first practice driving the rig with an empty trailer. Before going out on the road, you must know how to hook up, back up, and park

the trailer correctly. You would also need a commercial driver's license, depending on the combined weight of the truck and trailer.

In order to have a safe trip with your horse, the maintenance of the trailer is very crucial. Inspect the flooring of the trailer at least once a year, check the wood flooring for signs of dry rot and aluminum flooring for signs of stress fractures. Along with this, you should also inspect the brakes for wear, the wheel bearings for greasing, bolt holes, and broken welds. If all this is too much for you, hire a professional inspector for your trailer.

Get your horse ready for the trip There are different types of protective gear for horses that make sure they are completely protected and comfortable during the entire journey. For protecting horses' legs and providing support to them while traveling, there are available shipping bandages and boots. However, if the shipping bandages are not correctly applied to the horses' legs, they can cause serious damage to the soft tissues of the legs. To make your horse comfortable in leg protection gear while traveling, make sure you try them before trailering. There are also available head bumpers to protect the top of horses' heads from impact while traveling.

It is a common issue that many horses legs will fill (become inflamed, puffiness) when standing still for a period of time. Advanced Magnetic Therapy such as EQU StreamZ, offer owners a solution to this problem.

Checklist for loading the trailer Make sure to follow this checklist for correctly loading the trailer:

- Make sure that you have enough space for exiting the trailer after loading your horse inside
- Make sure the butt bar is up before you tie your horse
- Make sure that all the partitions between the horses are secured and in places
- While parking the trailer, make sure the trailer is at a level to safely unload or load the horse
- Before trailering, make sure to do a final check on the hitch, lights, trailer, and towing vehicle
- Make sure there is good lighting while loading
- Make sure there is no loose gravel, ice, mud, or asphalt on the footing, as it can be a slip hazard while loading and unloading the horses
- If there is more than one horse for trailering, load the heavier one on the driver's side, as it will help stabilize the trailer if the wheels of the passenger side go off the road in an accident
- In the case of a slant-load trailer, make sure to keep the load centered over the axles

Checklist for the trailer Before making any trip with your trailer, you must consider the following things:

- Do not put a horse on the trailer before practicing it empty
- Depending on the weight of the load you would be carrying, adjust the electric brakes of your trailer
- Make sure your tires are checked for the load you would be carrying
- Make sure the trailer is tightly connected to the towing vehicle and locked in places
- There must be a portable air compressor in your vehicle always
- Make sure you have a working fire extinguisher and reflective safety triangles in the event of a breakdown
- Keep spare tires for your towing vehicle and the trailer
- Inspect the mats and flooring of the trailer
- Check if your vehicle is rated to safely tow your trailer
- Check for the maximum towing capacity of the hitch and vehicle

Things to carry in the journey Here is the list of all the essential things that you should carry while on the journey:

- Bedding for the trailer
- Supply of feed and water
- Veterinarian contact information along the route
- Shovel and bucket to pick up manure
- All the important paperwork including health certificate and Coggins negative test report
- First-aid kit for your horses
- Flashlight and knife
- Spare halters and lead ropes
- Your EQU StreamZ magnetic bands!

While traveling Stay hydrated Often horses do not like the smell and taste of unfamiliar water, hence it is important to pack the supply of water from your home only. However, it would be good if you get your horse used to drinking flavoured water to mask the taste of unfamiliar water.

Dehydration is a common problem in horses while traveling long distances, hence, offer your horse water at least every two hours while traveling.

Make 'pit stops' to rest and stretch Many horses do not urinate while the trailer is moving, and hence, you should make frequent pit stops so that your horses can urinate. At every stop, check the vitals of your horses for any sign of weakness, and discomfort. There are some trailers that are equipped with cameras so that you can keep an eye on the horses while traveling. At each stop, unload your horses and allow them to move around to stretch their legs.

Maintain the temperature inside the trailer Regular monitoring of temperature inside the trailer is important as on hot days, the temperature can rise in a very short amount of time, especially when you have stopped for rest. Always park your vehicle where there is shade and check your horses for sweating. Even in cold climates, the temperature can get warm if the horses have worn winter coats. Make sure you have opened the roof vents to provide air circulation.

Drive carefully In the end, you are driving with equine passengers, so be considerate about that. Do not accelerate quickly and give the horses some time to prepare for stops. Before returning to the normal speed, make sure the trailer has cleared all the turns, straightened out, and the horses have regained their balance. Carefully drive over the bumpy roads, minimize the noise in your trailer, and once arrived at the destination, make sure you give your horse adequate time to recover.

Checklist for Unloading Make sure you check all these checklists before unloading your horses:

- Make sure you do not stand directly behind the horse before or while he unloads
- Carefully examine the complete area for any safety hazards
- After untying the horse, make sure to control his head until the butt bar is down

Conclusion You make a huge investment of time, money, and love on your horses. Hence, it is very important to do your homework before pulling out of the driveway to haul horses. You should always stay vigilant to the changing conditions while on the road trailering your horses. Before starting on the journey, you should develop your personal, safe horse trailering plan, and follow that plan strictly.

You can also follow this guide on trailering your horses and the chances are good that you and your horses will arrive in great shape.

Bio of Author:

Kate Brown is an equine expert and writer with over three decades of experience in training and riding horses. She was raised caring for horses, rehabilitated rescue horses, showed her own horses, and rode long distances.

How Will High Fuel Prices Impact RV Travel Plans in 2022?

RV PRO Staff March 14, 2022

High gas prices will impact travel for 75 percent of RV owners this coming year.

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It seems like every news outlet is full of articles about high gas prices. Nothing can grab the attention of the everyday consumer like an increased cost at the pump. This issue hits home for so many people due to its immediate impact on our daily lives. When you pull up to the pump and watch the price ticker climb as you fill your tank, it's easy to see just how much more money is coming out of your wallet.

The gas price issue is front and center for the RV community. It will likely impact travel plans for many campers this summer. Traveling via RV is expensive, and with every increase in the cost of a gallon of fuel, that expense increases. RVs and tow vehicles are anything but fuel-efficient. Large Class A motorhomes may get as little as 5-7 miles per gallon. If prices reach \$5.00/gallon, which is a very likely scenario in the near future, traveling by RV will cost upwards of \$1.00 per mile for some. That 3,000 cross-country road trip just got a whole lot more expensive.

Even for more fuel-efficient RVs and tow vehicles, the cost of moving a home-on-wheels is expensive. Few can achieve better than 15 miles per gallon on an average trip. With high gas and diesel prices, the enemy to travel is distance. As a result, vacation and travel budgets will look a lot different this year for a lot more people.

It's hard to imagine a scenario where this doesn't have a ripple effect on other segments of the economy. Americans have a finite amount of disposable cash, so if RVers need to dedicate more of it to fuel, less will be available for other traditional travel expenses like eating out at restaurants, visiting local attractions, or splurging on non-essentials.

The RV industry has had a wild ride over the past couple of years. Covid restrictions for traditional travel forced people to look for alternatives, and the RV and camping lifestyle was there to answer the call. Between 2020 and 2021, more than 1 million new RV owners entered the lifestyle. As a result, the RV and camping industry has experienced unsurpassed pressure on them over the past two years. Dealer inventories are more than 40% below "normal." As a result, the major manufacturers have billions of dollars in backorders, and wait times for new RVs are unprecedented, with some people waiting over a year to take ownership.

Survey Results While it's easy to speculate how the rising fuel costs will impact the RV community, we decided to ask them. So, in an unofficial poll of RV owners via social media groups, we posed the question: **"How will high gas prices impact your camping plans this season?"** Well, it didn't take long to get responses. Nearly 700 RVers shared their thoughts in less than a few hours.

Although we're early in the reality of high fuel prices and anything can change, the responses from the RV community were surprising. If we look at the entirety of responses, it's clear that the high fuel prices will impact travel plans for most RVers in some capacity. What that impact looks like varies, but RVers are making adjustments to their plans.

Although **50% of RV owners responded that rising fuel prices wouldn't limit their travel distance, most will look to offset these costs by finding ways to cut back elsewhere to afford their camping lifestyle.** As a result, the ancillary industries may see a drop in business from campers as they opt to cut costs elsewhere. Only 25% of the camping community stated that the high prices wouldn't impact their plans at all, and they'd travel and spend as they would if prices didn't rise.

However, an almost equal number of campers indicated adjusting their plans significantly. **47% of respondents stated that they will still travel but do less of it or stay local.** Assuming a typical RV owner camps for two weeks out of the year, if some campers cut back to half that time, the impact will surely be felt by the RV industry and related businesses. With the recent interest in the camping lifestyle, this blow may be partially softened by the influx of new

campers, but the wave the industry has been riding may slow to more of a ripple.

10% of campers stated that they are still planning to take the same number of trips but stay closer to home. This change may have a greater impact on the communities that rely heavily on tourism, like tourist towns surrounding National Parks, popular beach towns, and campgrounds that cater to the road tripper. It's hard to say for sure, but local campgrounds that are traditionally easier to make reservations at may see an uptick in bookings as campers decide to stay closer to home.

If there is one glimmer of home for the RV industry, it's that very few respondents stated that they'd give up their camping plans altogether. **Less than 2% of campers will be staying home this year.** Others have stated that they'll take longer trips vs. several shorter ones. Finally, some folks stated that they'd camp as planned but do a lot more complaining about gas prices.

The full effects of the high fuel prices are yet to be seen. Will there be a decline in RV orders? Will truck prices drop from their record highs? Will we see an increased call for electric tow vehicles and RVs? Only time will tell. One thing is certain- if prices continue to climb above even the most conservative predictions, the impact on the camping industry will continue to increase.

AirSafeHitches.com



Why Use an Air Hitch?

AirSafe is committed to giving you the safest and most comfortable ride possible. We offer the largest selection of air hitches in the industry, including 5th wheel hitches, gooseneck hitches, and receiver hitches for trailer hitches for trucks.

Our hitches utilize the most innovative engineering and design available on the market today. With a fully height adjustable design, AirSafe hitches are easy to use and don't cause any headaches.

Air Safe Hitches also delivers the ultimate in safety.

With only 10% trailer inertia, our hitches make your vehicles sway a lot less. By evenly distributing the weight between the trailer and the tow vehicle, you will have more ability to brake and steer safely.

AirSafe Hitches are the safest way to tow anything, and they provide the most comfort of any ride. If that isn't enough to convince you, these hitches are also affordable. With AirSafe Hitches, you get safety, comfort, and savings all in one.

5th Wheel Hitches - Omni-Directional 4 air bag vs competitor 2 air bag system. A four-air bag hitch is designed to allow the hitch head to move on the air bags in any direction based on articulation from the trailer itself. The result of such continuous motion results in a smooth ride and decrease chucking and surging forces from the trailer on the truck. In addition to the movement from the trailer, the 4-airbag hitch support 100% of the pin weight, increasing the effectiveness of the air springs. This results in a smooth and controlled motion for the trailer on the truck.

Receiver Hitches – If you want a smoother ride and the ultimate in control, then you need the advantage provided by Air Safe Hitches with the Receiver Hitch by AirSafe™. With an Air Safe Receiver Hitch you will get a 90% smoother ride than with a traditional hitch, which can save

you money. Glide across the highways and roads avoiding the constant bouncing, which leads to a decrease in gas mileage and early wear and tear on your tires. Our Air Safe Receiver Hitches also reduce stress on your truck and trailer suspension and help eliminate breakages inside the trailer. Our design allows total air ride vs the Shocker Hitch with the hinged approach.

[Gooseneck Hitches](#) – Air Safe offers the industry’s largest selection of air hitches. Innovation and engineering insures you receive the safest and smoothest ride. “Enjoy the ride, arrive alive.” With AIRSAFE™ you stop the flow of shock flow between the tow vehicle to the trailer and greatly reduce the explosion of energy when these two forces meet. The patented AIRSAFE™ hitches are engineered so the connection to the trailer is separated from the connection to the tow vehicle by an industrial strength airbag. Air Safe Gooseneck Hitches by AIRSAFE™ are simply the best air product money can buy. They are engineered with you and your precious cargo in mind. Simply remove your existing gooseneck tube and coupler and replace it with the AIRSAFE™ system. Available in round and square necks.

[Click to check out the benefits of an air hitch vs a rigid hitch.](#)

RMS Releases 2022 ‘State of the Industry’ Report

RV PRO Staff March 23, 2022

RMS, a cloud-based property management company focused on the outdoor hospitality industry, has released its 2022 State of the Industry Report.

The company noted that from 2020 to 2021, RMS North America saw a 35 percent increase in bookings, and its newest report shows that domestic travel is still likely to account for another very strong year for the outdoor industry.

The report offers information on traveler sentiment, expectations post-pandemic and how properties can adapt and cater to guests.

Some of the highlights:

Even with declining COVID cases, people still prefer to stay local. Domestic travel, especially within 300 miles, offers guests the chance to see more in a shorter time frame. It also allows travelers to spread their time off over more trips. However, with the rising return-to-office rates, people will be more selective with their vacation time.

Driving instead of flying provides extra safety measures for those still worried about air travel, since they can control the size of their group and avoid crowded airports.

- 59 percent of travelers plan to only travel domestically
- 48 percent of survey respondents plan on taking more road trips in 2022, up by
- 16 percent compared to last year’s survey

The desire for travel is high, but guests will stick close to home and visit more local destinations. However, that doesn’t mean they will be pinching pennies as travel spending will increase as people treat themselves to much needed time off. COVID protocols around improved cleaning and self-service will remain popular with guests even as pandemic worries decrease.

Choosing an RV: All the info you need to pick the right kind to rent or buy

Dave Parfitt
FamilyVacationist.com

For families and older travelers eager to make up for lost vacation time during the pandemic, RVs are a way to get back out into the world in a clean, safe and convenient environment. Also called motor homes or recreational vehicles, RVs let you travel in a self-contained bubble that has all the comforts and conveniences of home, including space for your pets. They're even a viable option for the increasing number of people embracing the "work from anywhere" movement.

But with so many different types of RVs on the market, how do you know which type is right for your big RV road trip? From pop-ups and fifth wheels to Class A, Class C and camper vans, here's everything you need to know about choosing the best RV for your travel needs – including how to rent an RV and whether you should rent or buy.

WHAT HAPPENED AFTER THE PURCHASE?:RV sales surged because of COVID-19, and not everyone is thrilled with their purchase

FAMILY CAMPING: 10 best campgrounds and RV parks for families

Choosing an RV: Should you rent or buy?
Even setting aside the considerable financial investment of buying an RV, it's common sense that if you've never been RVing before, you should first consider renting one.

"Renting an RV helps you understand if you even like the experience," says Paige Bouma, Executive Vice President of Sales and Operations at Trader Interactive, which operates the website RVTrader.com. Renting will also allow you to try out different types of RVs to see which kind is a good fit. Some rental RVs also come equipped with bedding and kitchen supplies.

OUTDOOR AMBIENCE: 10 family glamping resorts where you can get away from it all

Is a motorhome more your style or will a camper van better suit your needs? Do you want to tow a travel trailer and if so do you have the appropriate tow vehicle? Rent an RV from a local dealer or individual owner through a company like Outdoorsy or RVShare (think of it like an Airbnb or Vrbo for RVs). Then head off to a local campground and try out the RV lifestyle for yourself.

"Many RVers use their RV at least two weeks a year and some for months at a time. If you think that you won't, it may make sense to rent," advises Christy Hamilton of Go RVing. "If you plan to use it 20 days or more per year, buying may be a better option." Hamilton also notes that some RV owners buy an RV and rent it out via peer-to-peer sites like Outdoorsy or RVShare when they don't plan to use it, which helps offset the cost of the RV.

Travel trailers vs. motorhomes

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CONSIDERING BUYING AN RV? Some owners are regretting the purchase

Travel trailers vs. motorhomes

First-time RVers have to make a choice between towing a travel trailer or driving a motorhome.

If you decide to tow, it’s important to match the loaded weight of the RV to the towing capacity of the tow vehicle. The longer and heavier the trailer, the larger the tow vehicle needs to be. Always check your vehicle’s owner’s manual for towing weight restrictions and have your tow package professionally installed.

KID-FRIENDLY HOTELS: 15 best family resorts in the U.S.

If you don’t have any experience towing, or if towing makes you nervous, a motorhome may be a better choice for you.

Types of towable RVs

Travel trailers or bumper pulls

Travel Trailers or “bumper pulls” are the most popular type of RVs. They range from small sizes for solo travelers (like a teardrop or pop-up trailer) up to longer coaches that accommodate big families.

ROAD TRIP: Why an Iceland camper rental should be your next open-road adventure
Towable travel trailers make it easy to set up at a basecamp, unhitch your tow vehicle and head off to explore the area. Travel trailers are also popular because they don’t contain an engine, thus making it more economical and lower maintenance.

Fifth-wheel travel trailers

Fifth wheels are large towable coaches with many of the features of the more luxurious motorhomes (minus the engine). They are designed to be towed exclusively by a pickup truck with a “5th wheel” hitch in the bed. These large RVs need to be towed by a heavy-duty truck and may be too big for first-time RVers.

Types of motorhomes

Class C motorhomes

Class C motorhomes are probably the RV most people think of first. This motorhome has an over-the-cab area that usually contains a bunk, another bedroom in the back and (depending on the size) bunk beds and other sleeping berths. The downside of the Class C motorhome is once you set up camp, you typically need a separate vehicle to explore the area.

Class A motorhomes

Class A motorhomes are luxurious bus-like RVs that are the high-end way to travel. Because of their size and weight, RVs in this category can be difficult for first-time RVers to drive.

Class B motorhomes (a.k.a. campervans)

The smallest of the drivable motorhomes are the camper vans, categorized as Class B. In a camper van, there’s typically enough space for a couple and the vehicle may (or may not)

include a bathroom. Because of their “van-life” size, camper vans are easy to drive and easy to park, but might not have enough space for an entire family. These are a great choice for childless couples, solo travelers and seniors looking to explore the open road in retirement.

Which size RV should you choose? Start by making sure you choose an RV that has enough room for everyone in your travel party to sleep comfortably. If there’s just two of you on a couples getaway, for example, a Class B campervan or small travel trailer may be all you need. For a family road trip with the kids, you’ll need to think bigger. Some RVs have over-cab beds, others have bunk beds and most offer a pull-out couch and a dinette that will both turn into beds.

If you decide on a motorhome instead of a travel trailer, choose an RV that has enough room to seat your family. Each person should be seated using a seatbelt when the RV is moving.

Bear in mind that bigger is not always better, though. The longer an RV is (either towable or drivable) the more difficult it will be to control when driving. Look for a “Goldilocks vehicle” that’s big enough to accommodate your travel group but not so big it leads to difficult driving conditions.

Nervous about driving? Get the RV delivered to a campground for you. Don’t want to drive or tow an RV but still want to check out the RV lifestyle? You can rent an RV and have it delivered to your campsite. Websites such as Go RVing can help you find local dealers near you or your destination. Some companies will even hook up your RV for you and come get it when you’re done – leaving you plenty of time to enjoy the area and the campground.

Another option is to stay in a Park Model RV at a local campground. Park Model RVs look like a cabin and generally have a bedroom, full kitchen and bath and living area. Some have a sleeping loft and a front porch with a swing.

SOLAR PANELS FOR RV ROOF: A BEGINNER'S GUIDE

So, you're one of the smart sustainable thinkers who plan to kit out their RV with solar panels?

Moving into 2022, there are hundreds of solar panels you could choose to install on top of your RV, which means the entire decision making process tends to be quite intimidating.

We would like to share all our solar knowledge with you to make your next camping adventure that much more adventurous and eco-friendly!

Let's get started.

WHAT IS A SOLAR PANEL AND HOW DOES IT WORKS

Solar panels create clean energy by transforming light from the sun into electricity. This can then be used to power electrical loads within your RV.

Solar panels are made up of several singular solar cells, which themselves consist of two types of semiconductors, called **p-type** and **n-type silicon**.

These solar cell layers absorb the photons produced by the sun, and in doing so result in an electric current being generated.

Each and every photon that strikes the surface of the solar panel causes electrons to be knocked out of their atomic orbit.

These electrons are then released into the solar cells electric field which then pull them into a directional current.

The entire process is known as the Photovoltaic Effect.

Look, I know understanding how do rv solar panels work is pretty confusing, so if you haven't

quite grasped the concept yet, I recommend you give this video a watch.

WHAT SIZE SOLAR PANEL DO I NEED FOR MY RV?

To add solar panels to rv, first and foremost it's important to remember that **the quantity of solar panels are irrelevant.**

You should rather focus on the total amount of watts your solar panel produces.

Now remember, you don't run your electric appliances off of your solar panels. You run your appliances off of your vans solar batteries, your solar panels are there simply to recharge your campervans batteries.

Your batteries should be chosen based on your electrical demands. Your solar panels should be chosen based on the amount of recharge your batteries require.

HOW MANY WATTS OF SOLAR PANELS DO I NEED TO RECHARGE MY BATTERIES?

To determine this, you first need to figure out what the total amount of amp hours your batteries produce.

In our example RV we've got three AGM batteries that produce:

- 60Ah
- 60Ah
- 70Ah
- **Total:** 190Ah (Amp Hours)

As a general rule of thumb we recommend 200 watts of RV solar panels per 100 amp hours (Ah) of batteries as a base guideline (that's 100Ah Lithium or 200Ah AGM).

So in our example we'd require 200 watts of solar panels to recharge all three of our AGM batteries within a reasonable timeframe. Lithium batteries are significantly more expensive than AGM batteries. However, we highly recommend looking to install lithium over AGM 9 times out of 10.

Based on our example, if you were to install 400 watts of solar panels, you'd simply recharge your batteries twice as fast or more efficiently in low light conditions.

Installing solar panels for RV roof is all about being versatile. You'll also be charging your batteries via your alternator (this happens while you're driving). So, relying purely on your solar panel is unnecessary.

WHAT ARE THE COSTS OF A RV SOLAR PANEL?

The costs of solar panels for RV roof are vary greatly. When planning your budget you should consider factors such as the type of solar panel (monocrystalline, polycrystalline), the wattage, is the panel rigid or flexible and of course, the brand dictates price quite abit.

As a ballpark figure, RV solar panels generally range in cost between \$100 - \$300.

Feel free to browse our selection of portable solar panels here, which can help adding solar panels to rv.

WHERE IS THE BEST PLACE TO PUT A SOLAR PANEL ON A RV?

To determine this, one needs to take into consideration the ecliptic (the imaginary path the sun follows) and the set up of your RV.

First off, putting your solar panel on one of the sides of your van would be very much counter productive. Depending on your driving direction, you'd only be benefiting from the suns solar rays for half the day.

Once the sun reaches it's zenith, what then? This is precious solar energy being lost every second.

There's no doubt the most logical place to put your solar panel would be on the roof of your RV.

It would be silly to place the solar panels underneath any roof racks as once again, you'd be losing out on so much potential solar energy absorption.

CAN I CONNECT A SOLAR PANEL DIRECTLY TO A BATTERY?

In theory, yes you are able to connect a solar panel directly to your battery. You would do this simply by connecting the solar panels positive wire to the positive battery terminal, and vice versa for the negative wire.

While doing this *will* charge your battery, you may run into **two problems** by using this fast track method:

1. At night when there's no active charge, your battery runs the risk of leaking electricity back into the solar panel, which may slowly discharge your battery. However, the amount is usually so slight you wouldn't even notice it. If you are adamant on preventing this leakage, you can fit a simple diode in the line (a one way valve for electricity).
2. The second issue can be a bit more serious - if the solar panel is left on it's own it can actually overcharge your battery. To avoid this it's essential you fit a charge controller.

This device has the correct circuitry to stop the flow of power from the solar panel to the battery once the battery is fully charged.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF SOLAR PANELS FOR RV ROOF?

It's been a campfire topic for some years now, what good does a RV solar panel actually do and is it worth installing?

Let us sum up 5 of the benefits I believe make installing solar power worth it.

#1 IT'S ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY Yes, a solar panel will charge your van's battery for free with clean energy every single time the sun comes out. This way you rely solely on your batteries and your solar panels for power. No need for Co2 producing generators that only further the effects of climate change.

#2 OFF GRID LIVING Solar panels (with the appropriate batteries) will allow you to stay off the grid for longer. So exploring some of those off the beaten track destinations may now finally be reachable. Self reliant = freedom!

#3 SIMPLY FIT AND FORGET Once you've maneuvered through the initial investment and installation costs, solar panels are generally hassle free. That is, they don't need any maintenance, except for the once in a while good cleaning, they should last you years without any issues.

#4 SAVE YOUR MOOLA Some campsites require that you pay an additional fee to hook up to their electrical grid. While the sentiment is flattering, wouldn't you rather save all that money in the long run and while you're at it, maybe the environment too?

#5 THEY'RE NOT ANNOYING Solar panels will simply fit onto the top of your RV and stay there. They don't weigh much and shouldn't bring up your fuel consumption.

Besides that, solar panels make absolutely no sound, whereas a gas generator will keep you and the whole campsite awake during the night.

FINAL WORD I hope you enjoyed this article, we certainly enjoyed creating it. Stay tuned for more information on all RV related articles.

If you enjoyed this article, feel free to let us know in the comments section below. Also, please share any of your RV solar panel photographs, we'd be stoked to see your setup!

FAQ 1. Are solar panels on RV worth it?

Is solar power worth it? Don't get me wrong, RV solar power has some downsides, but it is absolutely worth the investment. While it is a hefty cost upfront, it gives you the ability to go boondocking on public land rather than having to stay in a crowded RV park with hookups.

2. What will a 100 watt solar panel run in a RV?

Things that can be quite easily run on a 100-watt solar panel are laptop and phone chargers, ceiling fans, LED light bulbs, and DVD players. Anything bigger than that will generally require more than one 100-watt solar panel.

3. Can you put solar panels on top of an RV?

Any type of solar panel can be made to work with an RV; however, there may be some challenges. First is space available. solar panels for RV roof may have lots of stuff on it and require the use of smaller panels. If the roof is wide open, full-size residential panels like used on homes can be used for RV solar panels.

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