

Key Chapter Takeaways



- Your first RV trip should be a shakedown trip.
- A shakedown trip is when you camp close to home or close to your RV dealership and put the RV through its paces.
- A shakedown trip allows you to learn about your RV in a more familiar setting.
- A shakedown trip allows you to inspect your RV thoroughly and note any warranty issues immediately.



Planning a Successful Shakedown Trip



The Big Idea

A shakedown trip is an annual tradition for many RV owners, but it is especially important for new RV owners. A shakedown trip is when you camp close to home, in a familiar setting, and put your RV through the paces.

If you are a brand new RV owner, you won't want to make this a social excursion. Plan on giving the RV most, if not all, of your attention. Make sure everything works, and make sure you are comfortable with how it works.

This lesson will cover tips for a successful shakedown trip.

| Where Should You Go for a Shakedown Trip?

Stay close to home! Why?

- Towing and driving a motorhome are skill sets best learned in small doses. It's easier when you are familiar with the roads you are driving on.
- You will probably forget a whole bunch of items, and it's great to be able to run home for tools you need.
- Many people stock their RVs on a shakedown trip, and that's easier when you are near familiar stores.

Planning a Successful Shakedown Trip



| Book a Full Hookup Campsite

Even if you are dreaming of boondocking in the deep woods, your shakedown trip needs to be at a site with water, sewer, electric, and cable if you truly want to test all your RV systems.

Full hookups will allow you to:

- Test all the appliances
- Run the water system
- Practice emptying the tanks
- Test the air conditioner and heater

Tip

Remember, the goal of a shakedown trip is to use EVERYTHING on your RV.

| Shakedown Trip Priorities

We want you to inspect the entire RV on a shakedown trip, but here are some of the top priorities:

- Run a TON of water and obsessively check for leaks. Open the cabinets and access panels and actually touch the pipes to check for any moisture. Look under the shower/tub. Inspect under the RV to look for exterior leaks as well.
- Make sure your RV refrigerator is cooling on both electric and gas.
- If it is a three-way refrigerator, check the 12-volt setting.
- Check all your outlets, and run your generator if you have one.

Tip

Make a list of anything you need to fix while under warranty. Whether you have a one- or two-year warranty, you'll want to catch any issues as early as possible.

Planning a Successful Shakedown Trip



| Go Easy on RV Modifications

We LOVE RV modifications. Whether it's upgraded steps, solar panels, or a tankless water heater, there are so many aftermarket add-ons that will make your RV life more comfortable. However, it's best if you get to know your RV inside and out before fiddling around too much.

- Get a good understanding of what is behind the walls.
- Get a handle on your cargo carrying capacity and your own personal cargo weight range before making changes.
- See how things move in the RV and shift during transit before adding decor.
- See how you actually use the space and implement organizing hacks that really work.

| Take Lots of Notes

Use a notepad, smartphone, tablet, or laptop to keep running lists. You may think you'll remember everything later, but experienced RVers will beg to differ.

- Make note of any warranty issues and document with photos and video. If you call your dealer, follow up with an email including documentation.
- Make a list of all the items you forgot to stock in the RV.
- Personalize the checklists in your Togo RV app, focusing on setting up and breaking down the rig. Every RV is different, so your checklists will be most useful if you take the time to customize them.