

The 12-Month RV Maintenance Calendar

What to check, and when — so the expensive failures never get the chance to start.

Almost every catastrophic RV repair bill starts as something small and boring that nobody checked. A hairline crack in roof sealant becomes delamination. A tyre that passed a tread inspection fails on age. A water heater anode nobody replaced takes the tank with it.

None of these are difficult to prevent. They are simply easy to forget, because the right moment to check them is never the moment you are thinking about the RV. That is what a calendar fixes.

How to use this. Print it and keep it with the unit rather than in a drawer at home. Work the current month, tick as you go, and write the date beside anything you serviced — next year's you will want to know when the bearings were last packed. Adjust the seasonal months to your climate; the sequence matters more than the exact month names.

This calendar does not replace your manufacturer's schedule. Intervals for brakes, bearings, LP components, tyres and chassis servicing vary by make, model, axle rating and use. Where this calendar and your owner's manual disagree, follow the manual. Have LP gas, brake and chassis work done by a qualified technician.

The four checks that prevent the biggest bills

If you do nothing else on this calendar, do these.

1. **Roof and seals, twice a year.** Water intrusion is the most expensive common failure in any RV, and it is almost always preventable with sealant that costs very little. Inspect in spring and again in autumn.
2. **Tyre age, not just tread.** RV tyres routinely fail from age with plenty of tread left, because they spend most of their life stationary and under load. Find the DOT date code and treat the age limit in your manual as a hard retirement date.
3. **Water heater anode rod, annually.** A consumable designed to corrode so the tank does not. Replacing it is a small annual job; not replacing it eventually means replacing the heater.
4. **Proper winterising, without shortcuts.** A single un-drained low point can split a line and flood the coach. The forgotten fixtures — outside shower, toilet valve, ice maker — cause most of these failures.

The monthly calendar

Sequenced for a four-season climate with the unit stored over winter. Full-timers and warm-climate owners should shift the winterising and de-winterising blocks and keep the rest in order.

January — Deep winter, storage watch	Done
Check the cover or tarp after every storm; standing snow and pooled water cause more roof damage than cold does.	☐
Confirm antifreeze still shows pink at a low-point drain; top up if diluted.	☐
Run the generator under load for about two hours if the unit is not fully winterised.	☐
Check battery state of charge — lead-acid left below half charge in the cold sulphates quickly.	☐
Look for rodent evidence around the engine bay, storage bays and under the fridge.	☐
February — Planning and parts	Done
Book warranty or dealer work now; spring appointment books fill by March.	☐
Order filters, belts, anodes and sealant before seasonal price rises.	☐
Review last season's notes and list what actually annoyed you — that list is your real maintenance plan.	☐
Check tyre pressures even in storage; cold drops pressure and encourages flat-spotting.	☐
Renew registration and insurance if they lapse in spring.	☐
March — De-winterising	Done
Flush antifreeze from the entire fresh-water system until it runs clear and odourless.	☐
Sanitise the fresh water tank and lines, then flush again thoroughly.	☐
Reinstall water filters and the water heater drain plug or anode rod.	☐
Pressure-test the water system and inspect every visible joint for weeping.	☐
Reinstall and test batteries; clean any terminal corrosion.	☐

April — Roof and seal inspection	Done
Inspect the entire roof: every seam, vent, skylight, antenna base and air-conditioner gasket.	☐
Reseal cracked or lifted sealant with a product matched to your roof material.	☐
Inspect window and door seals, and the seams down every exterior corner.	☐
Test slide-out seals and lubricate mechanisms per the manufacturer's schedule.	☐
Check awning fabric and arms for tears, corrosion and smooth operation.	☐
May — Systems and safety before first trip	Done
Test smoke, carbon monoxide and LP gas detectors; check unit expiry dates, not just batteries.	☐
Have the LP system leak-tested and confirm regulator pressure.	☐
Service the fridge on both gas and electric; clear the exterior vent of debris and nests.	☐
Service air-conditioner filters and coils.	☐
Check fire extinguisher charge and mounting.	☐
June — Running gear	Done
Inspect tyres for age as well as tread; find the DOT date code and treat age as a retirement trigger.	☐
Check wheel torque after the first trip and at the interval in your manual.	☐
Inspect brakes; for trailers, test the breakaway switch and its battery.	☐
Grease bearings or confirm the service interval; check for grease weeping at the hubs.	☐
Test all exterior lights, brake lights and signals with the tow vehicle connected.	☐

July — Peak season	Done
Clean air-conditioner filters monthly during heavy use — the most-skipped hot-weather task.	☐
Watch fridge performance in high ambient temperatures; add a vent fan if it struggles.	☐
Inspect the roof after any hail or heavy storm rather than waiting for a scheduled check.	☐
Check tyre pressure at ambient temperature before each travel day.	☐
Keep the generator exercised and its oil within interval under heavy use.	☐
August — Water and waste	Done
Deep-clean holding tanks and check that sensors read accurately.	☐
Inspect and clean the black tank flush system.	☐
Check the water pump for cycling with no tap open — that indicates a leak.	☐
Inspect sewer hoses and fittings; replace anything cracked or perished.	☐
Re-sanitise the fresh water system if the unit sat unused for several weeks.	☐
September — Post-season inspection	Done
Repeat the full roof and seal inspection; summer sun degrades sealant faster than winter cold.	☐
Inspect the underbelly and coroplast for road-debris damage.	☐
Check the water heater anode rod and replace if significantly consumed.	☐
Test the furnace before you need it, not on the first cold night.	☐
Note every fault you tolerated during the season while you still remember it.	☐

October — Engine, generator and chassis	Done
Service engine oil and filters per interval, or before storage if the interval is close.	☐
Change generator oil and filter; check its air filter and spark arrestor.	☐
Inspect belts and hoses for cracking and softness.	☐
Check chassis and coach battery health; clean all terminals.	☐
Inspect the exhaust system for leaks or damage.	☐
November — Winterising	Done
Drain fresh, grey and black tanks completely, then flush.	☐
Drain the water heater and bypass it before adding antifreeze.	☐
Blow out lines with low-pressure air, then add RV antifreeze until pink runs from every fixture.	☐
Do not forget the outside shower, toilet valve, ice maker line and washing machine if fitted.	☐
Add antifreeze to every P-trap and the toilet bowl.	☐
December — Storage setup	Done
Store batteries charged, on a maintainer or disconnected and checked monthly.	☐
Block rodent entry points; steel wool at penetrations beats bait inside the coach.	☐
Cover tyres from UV and take weight off them for long-term storage.	☐
Prop fridge doors open and leave moisture absorbers throughout the coach.	☐
Ensure the cover sheds water and does not chafe on corners or the ladder.	☐

Service log

Record dates for the items where knowing the last service date genuinely matters. This page is worth more than the rest of the calendar combined when you come to sell.

Item	Last done	Next due	Notes
Roof inspection / reseal			
Wheel bearings packed			
Brake inspection			
Tyres — DOT date code			
Water heater anode rod			
LP system leak test			
Generator oil + filter			
Engine oil + filter			
Detectors tested / replaced			
Fire extinguisher checked			
Fresh water sanitised			
Winterised			

Keeping the record honest

Write down faults the moment you notice them

The fault you notice on a trip is almost never the fault you remember at the end of it. Keep a running note on your phone and transfer it to the September inspection. Most deferred repairs are not deferred deliberately — they are simply forgotten.

Date everything you service

"Recently" is not a maintenance record. A dated log tells you when a consumable is genuinely due, settles arguments with a service department, and materially helps resale — a buyer choosing between two similar units will pay more for the one with a history.

Before every trip, regardless of month: tyre pressures at ambient temperature, wheel torque if the wheels have been off, lights and signals with the tow vehicle connected, detectors responding, and nothing loose on the roof.

General maintenance guidance only. This calendar is a planning aid, not a repair manual, and not a substitute for your manufacturer's maintenance schedule or a qualified technician's inspection. LP gas systems, brakes, wheel bearings, suspension, tyres and chassis components affect safety and should be inspected and serviced by a qualified professional. Always follow your owner's manual, and never work under a vehicle supported only by a jack.