



# What's the BEST RV for for YOU?

With so many choices in the marketplace now, determining the best RV for you [and your family] can be a challenge. Here are a few things to consider before making a decision:

## ASK YOURSELF...

- ▶ **WHO WILL I BE TRAVELING WITH MOST OF THE TIME?** Many RVer's today have made the mistake of buying an RV that's either too big or too small. Most of us love the thought of our kids, grandkids, friends and other family members joining us on our travels, but buying a RV that sleeps 10 may have you feeling a bit oversized when everyone is too busy to join you. Also, keep in mind traveling with kids if you are considering full-time RVing. Making a dinette or sofa into a bed a few times a year is not a big deal, but doing it every night can get a bit old quickly. Plus, having individual sleeping spaces gives mom, dad and the kids a place to call their own.
- ▶ **WHAT SKILLS DO YOU HAVE?** The RV market has something for just about everyone. Knowing what skills, you have, or even what you are willing to do yourself is a big question. If you love projects and have time to take one on, then buying an older RV that "needs work" could be a solution for you. You could potentially save some money up front and make the RV suit your needs.
- ▶ If you don't have a lot of skills, or just don't see yourself fixing up an older RV, then a newer RV is probably a better choice. This is a decision that only you can make. Keep in mind that regardless of the age of the RV, there will be things that need attention, and you definitely want to keep this in mind when determining how much to spend on the initial purchase.

- ▶ **HOW MUCH TIME DO YOU PLAN ON SPENDING INSIDE THE RV?** Are you a bookworm, or do you prefer to spend your time outside on adventures and seeing the sites? If you're the bookworm, then having a comfortable, cool place to lounge while you read is probably pretty high on your list. On the other hand, if the RV is just a place to sleep at night and then take you to your next adventure, your requirements will be different. Also, consider where you are going to shower [among other things!] If using the shower/restroom at an RV park makes your skin crawl, then really consider this as you select your RV.

These are just a few of the questions you might want to ask yourself before deciding what type of RV to buy. RV's range in price from thousands to hundreds of thousands, even millions and can be one of the most expensive items you'll purchase.

If all of this has you really unsure which is the best RV for YOU, consider a pre-purchase consultation with Compass RV Inspections. We walk you through a number of thought-provoking questions that can ultimately help you make the best choice. Our pre-purchase consultation is just \$199 and has the potential to save you thousands of dollars. Plus, the \$199 can be applied to your pre-purchase inspection when you find the RV you wish to purchase.

**CALL US TODAY**

to schedule your pre-purchase consultation

**281.780.3770**

## BUYER TIPS: Negotiating the Purchase!

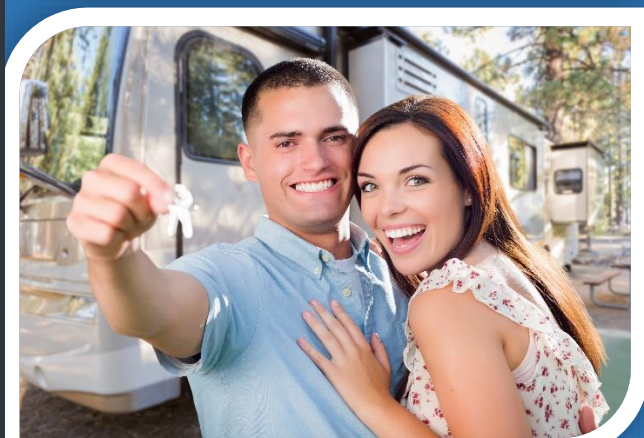
When it comes to buying and selling, the buyer wants a good deal and the seller wants to sell it for a good price. Here are a few tips to help you meet in the middle and walk away with a smile:

**TIP #1 | Get it inspected! I know, you're saying of course an RV Inspector would say that!** It really is a valuable tool that helps you know the true condition of the RV and therefore it's potential value.

**TIP #2 | Know the NADA Value of the RV before you make an offer.** The National Automotive Dealers Association [NADA] has a website that will give you a low-mid-high range on the value of any vehicle. If the RV has a diesel engine, the value is not affected by the mileage. If it has a gas engine, you will want to enter the mileage of the RV because this can greatly affect the value. Once you know the high and low value the RV should sell for, you will be more prepared to make a reasonable offer. Visit [NADA.COM](http://NADA.COM) to get started.

**TIP #3 | Have Your Financing in Place.** In other words, if you're planning on financing your new RV, then get preapproved by the lender of your choice. Check interest rates with various lenders too! Keep in mind that the older the RV, the harder they are to finance. RV financing is much different than buying a car. Now-a-days most car loans have a term of 6 to 7 years, less if older. With RV's, the financing term could be as much as 20 years on a newer RV. Financing a RV is more like buying a house than a car. In a seller's market, being preapproved can make the difference when there is more than one potential buyer.

**TIP #4 | Know When to Walk Away.** Decide ahead of time what your 'no goes' are. It's very easy to get emotionally attached to purchasing an RV. Determining your 'no goes' ahead of time keeps you from making an emotional decision that you'll possibly regret later.



RVing, just like any other activity, comes with its own set of challenges. Here is a short list with some of things we've found to be important over the years.

## Tips for New RVers...

1. **Use checklists** for packing, setting up camp, and breaking down camp. You can find checklists for RVer's on the FMCA website. They also have an app if you prefer.
2. **Learn from others...**there are a bunch of RVing videos on YouTube. Vlogger's who share their experiences as a new RVer, RVing with kids, Full time RVing and many others.
3. **Don't buy every RV gadget you find.** It's easy when you're new to RVing to think you need a bunch of special gear. Most of what you need, you probably already have at home. Spend some time using your RV, then decide what to purchase.
4. **Always use a surge protector when connecting to power at an RV park.** So, there are a few extremely necessary items that you'll need for your RV [if it didn't come with them]. A surge protector is one of those items. RV park electricity varies drastically. Protecting your RV from power surges is very important. Power surges can do a great deal of damage to an RV, so please don't skip this one.
5. **Use a TPMS [Tire Pressure Monitoring System].** This is another super important item. Not only can a blowout be dangerous, they can also do serious damage to an RV. There are many styles & types of systems available.
6. **Read the manuals that came with your RV.** 99% of the RV's we've inspected had the original manuals. The systems on a RV can be complicated. Look thru your manuals and learn how to use things before you go camping for the first time. Also, keep the manuals in the RV for future reference.
7. **Try not to travel at night.** This is especially important when you're new to RVing. Arriving at a dark campground and trying to set-up an RV you're not super familiar with can make for stressful moments.
8. **Have fun! After all, isn't this why you bought an RV in the first place?**

## Don't be that RVer | Campground Etiquette

**You've probably already noticed that RV parks don't leave much room between spaces. Add this to the fact that the walls in your RV are pretty thin [compared to your house] and you can understand why a few RULES OF ETIQUETTE can be valuable.**

**To help you NOT be "That RVer",** we've put together a few things to help you be a good neighbor. Oh, and if you're traveling with kids? Share these simple rules with them too!

First and foremost, try and remember that everyone has a different reason for being there.

Your neighbor could be someone just like you that you'll end up becoming lifelong friends with. On the other hand, your neighbor might be a full-time RVer who finds themselves facing a health crisis and needs to take time to heal before hitting the road again.

### HERE GOES...JUST A FEW!

1. **NOISE** | Be aware of how much noise you are making [especially early or late in the day],
2. **PETS & KIDS** | Know where they are, don't let them go into others' campgrounds, and if they make a mess, please clean it up.
3. **RESPECT** | Everyone wants to be respected! A little bit can go a long way.

*Have fun, and enjoy the journey!*