

This is my fifth wheel guidelines and maintenance schedule

The maintenance is based on time but can change if the RV has extra use.

NOTE: I am **Not** an RV mechanic and these notes are basic guidelines that I use to maintain my RV. If any of these guidelines are incorrect or missing then I would appreciate a heads up on how they can be improved.

I did not include instructions for things like leveling the RV or routine setup. I also have separate instructions for winterizing, cleaning tanks (black/grey), fresh water tank, and cleaning the roof. Also I downloaded videos from the internet on how to manually bring in slides and awning. (I keep videos on laptop when on the road).

GUIDELINES (for my RV)

BEFORE Moving Fifth Wheel

Air pressure RV tires 80 psi

Air pressure Truck rear tires 80 psi

Air pressure Truck front tires 55 psi

Torque RV wheels 110 lbs

Hitching Up Checklist

Can use this list on an ipad that can be checked off and reused each time

Inside: (this is my wife's list and I do the outside)

- Take down pictures and gather loose items
- Make sure cabinets are all closed, bungee on and stuff is safely stowed
- Close windows
- Put bars in fridge & medicine cabinet
- Tie pocket door in bathroom
- Tie bedroom door open (*our bedroom slide cannot go in with the bedroom door closed*)
- Lock shower door
- Lock mirror closet doors
- Set up recliners for travel
- Make sure TV is in
- Dinette table is in
- Remove pool noodle pieces on slide
- Put bedroom slide in

- Put living room slides in
- Apply slide locks
- Put out sign about slide locks

Hitching up check list outside (do in this order)

(This may seem unnecessary, however I have found that I am often interrupted for one reason or another and that is when something gets missed.)

1. raise rear jacks
2. drop tailgate
3. pull out hitch bar
4. hitch up (look directly at hitch to see clamps are closed)
(Note: leave the truck running with the trailer plugged in, or have the trailer plugged into shore power when doing the jacks or slides. I was told by an RV mechanic that I should not use only the battery power for slides and jacks.)
5. put lock on hitch bar
6. connect power cord and break away wire
7. raise front jacks and put tailgate up
8. remove wheel chocks
9. disconnect and store shore power cord
- 10 disconnect and store water hose and water pressure regulator
- 11 disconnect and store sewer hose
- 12 Close tabs on oven vent
- 13 Put clothesline away (attached to RV ladder)
- 14 pull out tow mirrors on truck
- 15 move ahead and pick up boards (used for levelling)
- 16 test lights
- 19 make sure steps are up and door handle is in
- 20 do final walk around

Check list when on the road

At each stop I do a walk around. This includes the truck box and hitch. I check the temperature of the tires and wheels. I use a laser thermometer (temperature gun), but placing a hand on each tire and rim can also be fairly accurate.

I check the torque on the RV tires once a day on a long trip but I have never experienced a problem. (I carry a torque wrench in the RV for this purpose)
Also, I take a small 110/12 volt compressor with an extra 25 foot 12 volt extension cord. The one I use is a portable Kobalt 120 psi tire inflator. You can set the desired

tire pressure and it will shut off when the tire pressure is reached. Note that if you are doing more than one tire at a time, let the unit cool down between tires. I have found that you will blow the fuse if the unit is worked for too long a time. A fifteen minute wait after each tire seems to work ok. The cost is about \$60.00 and will last about 4 years before the maximum pressure falls below 80 psi. At that point you need to replace the compressor. The old one can still be used for bicycle tires etc. I use it at the campsite in Florida each spring before the trip back home. It works great and I use the 110 with an extension cord to reach each tire.

At home I use a large compressor for the tires but I do not take it with me because of size and weight.

Boondocking

When staying overnight at Walmart or a truck stop, I stay hooked up but lower the front jacks to take the weight off the truck. I also disconnect the power plug going to the RV. This is probably not necessary but I do not want to take a chance on running down my truck battery. I leave a note on the driver's seat to remind myself to raise the jacks and reconnect the power plug.

Note: when going to Florida in December we use the furnace and lights while boondocking. By morning the RV battery is very low because of running the furnace fan. Once you are back on the road, the battery will recharge very quickly and be fully charged for the next night.

Maintenance Schedule - Spring and Fall

Wash RV as required. I use a powder cleaner on the roof and a soft brush.

Oil all door hinges and outside steps.

FRONT JACKS

Lubricate using 10w40 spray.

REAR POWER JACKS

Lube rear power jacks – use 10w40 spray.

I always clean the gears of the back jacks with a cloth before applying 10w40 spray. (rear jacks are more prone to collecting dirt). If the gears are dirty, one side will not extend or retract at the same speed. If you see this happening, clean and re-spray.

SLIDE GEAR TRACKS

Use Fastnel CRC Power lube (recommend by Crossroads factory).

Schwintek bedroom Slide only needs nylon rollers cleaned with soapy water and rinsed off. No lubricants of any kind should be used.

FIFTH WHEEL HITCH

Use 10w40 spray on slide bar and locking mechanism. Do not lubricate the top of the hitch. The Teflon plate on the fifth wheel looks after this. If you have a puck style mounting system like my ford truck, then the pucks and mounting posts need to be cleaned and re-lubricated yearly using white lithium grease.

CAULKING

Inspect all caulking on roof, windows and sides of RV. Include screws holding ladder at back of RV. Anywhere caulking was applied. Correct any problems immediately.

TANKS

Flush black and grey water tanks *(I have separate instructions for this.)*

Sanitize fresh water tank. *(I have separate instructions for this.)*

The waste valves for the black and grey tanks should be lubricated with silicone spray to keep them from becoming difficult to push in or out.

RUBBER ON SLIDES

I use Pledge furniture polish on all the rubber around slides. I was told by an RV dealer to use the Pledge generously and rub it in. Do it twice a year. The rubber needs to be kept moist and pliable. Do not let dry out! It is expensive to replace. The top of the slides are easier to do from inside the RV. The sides and bottom are done outside the RV.

GREASE WHEELS

Repack wheel bearing once a year or every 12,000 miles. My old trailer had an "E-Z lube axle" where I could add a shot of grease, but this newer RV does not. I do not feel comfortable working on the wheels so I pay someone to do it. *(Open to suggestions on this one.)*

BATTERY

Check water level monthly. Fill with distilled water, but try not to overfill. My experience is that these batteries are thirsty and keeping the water level up will extend the life of the battery.

EXTRA HINTS

A common problem is to have a leak in the black or grey water tank valve. This results in a spill when you remove the cap to attach the sewer hose. There is an easy fix. It is a Valterra T58 Twist-on Waste Valve (cost about \$ 30.00 Cdn). This valve connects between the sewer pipe and the cap. You leave the valve closed until you have attached the sewer hose. This prevents any leakage. Open the valve and when done close the valve and replace the cap. A simple fix to a problem experienced by a lot of RVs.

When I winterize the RV, I use this opportunity to inspect the condition of the hot water tank anode rod and hot water tank flame (usually there are no problems).

Clean air conditioner filter every six months.

If you need to re-seal the belly liner, use Gorilla Tape and heat it with a hair dryer for a better seal. I mention this because twice I have had to do this repair when the tape used to seal the liner let go. The dealer may also have special tape to use for this purpose.

There are smoke detectors available with a temporary shutoff button. This is good for cooking breakfast without the smoke detector informing the entire campground.

I use a nylon plug for the water heater drain. Replace this each year (59 cents each) so they do not get old and leak or break.

Use foam pipe installation to stop noise from water pump vibration.

Power draw in trailer in amps – all adjusted for basic draw

basic draw 0.2 CO detector, microwave clock

air conditioner 12.2

awning 0.3

bedroom slide 1.4. Schwintek
coffee maker 4.5 one cup drip
curling iron 0.5
fan high 1.8 fan low 1.3
fireplace 6.0
fridge 2.4
front jacks down 1.1 front jacks up 2.1
furnace 2.6
hair dryer 10.8
water heater 10.3
microwave 9.3
LED lights 0.2 each set of 2
4 ceiling lights non-LED 2.0
table only – 3 lights non-LED 0.2
set of 2 porch light 0.3
scare light 0.4
rear jacks 0.7
slide out 2.0
table fan 0.1 on high
toaster 5.8 2 slice
TV 0.3
vacuum 8.9 Dyson canister
water pump 0.6