

7 QUICK TIPS FOR BUYING AN RV IN A VIRTUAL WORLD

Online shopping isn't just for small items, like clothes or groceries. Today, even big purchases – like buying an RV – can be done online. But where should you begin, and what do you need to consider when researching and buying RVs online? Here are RV Trader's tips and tricks for using the digital resources available to you in order to make informed purchases:

Before buying an RV, you need to figure out what kind of experiences you want to have and what features would be required to achieve them. Here are some things to consider for your RV wish list:

01 Build Your List.

- Sleeping space
- Storage space
- Living space
- Kitchen space & appliances
- How far you want to travel
- If you require electricity, heat/AC, running water, Wi-Fi, etc.
- If you'll have pets traveling with you
- If you'll drive through city streets or narrow roads
- If you'll need to haul extra toys, like dirtbikes or PWCs
- If you prefer a new or used RV
- If you prefer towing or driving the RV
- If you plan on traveling full time or just weekends

02 Determine Your Budget.

You'll obviously want to purchase an RV that is within a reasonable price range for your individual financial situation. To figure out your budget, it's important to consider the total cost of ownership of the RV. Three things to consider are...

- The down-payment,
- Recurring expenses, like monthly payments, insurance, fuel, storage, etc., and
- Preventative maintenance and unexpected repairs.

When calculating the total cost of ownership, you may also consider how you can sell your used RV once you're done with it or want to upgrade, helping you recoup some of your money.

03 Choose Your RV Type.

There are so many different types of RVs out there. It will be important to research each type of RV to determine which type would be the best fit for you and your lifestyle. Keep in mind how you want to use the RV, your level of expertise, and your price range. The main types of RVs include:



Class A



Class B



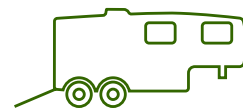
Class C



Travel Trailers



Toy Haulers



Fifth Wheels

04 Do Your Research.

Now that you know your preferred features, your budget, and the type of RV that's best for you, it's time to actually find and compare the relevant RVs that are available! On dealership websites, and on online marketplaces like RVTrader.com, you can browse listings and filter results based on your preferred criteria. Listings provide:



Photos



Videos



Descriptions



Details about the RV, such as special features and the mileage

While you're researching, be sure to compare listings. Just because you've found one RV that could be a good fit doesn't mean there's not a better RV or better deal out there. As you more seriously consider different RVs, be sure to research the dealer themselves, as well as the history of the RV if you're buying used.

05 Connect with the Seller.

Once you're interested in an RV, you don't have to immediately visit a dealership, as there are a number of digital communication options that may be offered by a seller, including...



Live chat messaging,



Live video chat,



Texting,



Emails, and



Phone calls.

Don't hesitate to request more photos, seek out additional details, ask questions, talk financing, make an offer, negotiate price, or communicate about anything else you think is important.

Pro-Virtual Shopping Tip: With some dealerships, you can even conduct a virtual RV inspection via a live video chat, which allows you to...

- ✓ View the RV's exterior and interior,
- ✓ Hear the engine running,
- ✓ See the mileage,
- ✓ Review parts or potential damage,
- ✓ Ask questions, and
- ✓ Hear the dealer's sales pitch.

06 Review Virtual Buying Options.

Once you've decided to purchase an RV, you may be able to complete most or all of the buying steps online, depending on state laws and dealership policies. Check to see if virtual options are

- A final inspection of the RV via live video streaming,
- Signing documents,
- Obtaining financing (from the dealership or 3rd party), or
- Obtaining warranties (from the dealership or 3rd party).

You can also check to see if you have to go to the dealership lot yourself, or if the RV can be delivered right to your driveway.

07 Avoid Fraud and Scams.

Spikes in scams occur around the holidays and at the beginning and peak of camping season — but they can happen all year round. Here's how you can remain alert and safe while buying online:

- Confirm the seller is real.
- Check online reviews.
- Ask fellow RVers about the dealer.
- Evaluate their website credibility.
- Confirm RV photos are real (and not stock images).
- Confirm the deal is real.
- Use caution clicking links.
- Don't share too much personal data.
- Only use secure sites (with a padlock symbol in the address bar and "https" as the first letters of the URL).
- Avoid direct money transfers.
- Use credit card protection services.
- Regularly check online bank statements.

We live in a virtual world, making it easier than ever to find and purchase the perfect RV for you and your family. If you're ready to start your search and get on the road, visit [RVTrader.com](https://www.rvtrader.com) today!