



The Ultimate Pre-Trip Audit

WEIGHT & COMPLIANCE (The Legal Essentials)

Crucial for avoiding fines at roadside weigh stations and ensuring insurance validity.

- GCM (Gross Combination Mass):** Actual: _____ kg (Limit: _____ kg)
- ATM (Aggregate Trailer Mass):** Actual: _____ kg (Limit: _____ kg)
- GVM (Gross Vehicle Mass):** Car, passengers, fuel, and tow ball download.
- TBM (Tow Ball Mass):** Aim for approx. 10% of total caravan weight for stability.
- Payload Check:** Subtract Tare from ATM; ensure you aren't over-limit with full water/gas.
- Get your rig professionally weighed

MECHANICAL & EXTERIOR (Road-Ready)

- Cables & Hoses:** 15amp lead 10amp adapter,, drinking water hose, inline water filter and tap connectors, and spray nozzle.
 - Tyres:** Check for "sidewall cracking" (common in stored vans) and 2mm+ tread depth.
 - Pressures (Cold):** Tow Vehicle (FL/FR/RL/RR/Spare) & Caravan (FL/FR/RL/RR/Spare).
 - Wheel Nuts:** Torqued to manufacturer specs (check again after the first 100km).
 - Bearings & Suspension:** Serviced within the last 12 months; check for play.
 - Gas System:** Cylinders in-date (10-year stamp) and valves shut for travel.
 - Lighting:** Full test of indicators, brake lights, and high-mount clearance lights.
 - Spares:** Plumbing, electrical, keys, mechanical
 - Tools:** Jack capable of lifting *loaded* van weight, torque wrench, and spare fuses, basic tools, tyre repair kit.
 - Recovery gear:** Recovery boards, shovel, tow strap and shackles. (do not use your towball as a recovery point).
 - Learn:** How to plug a tyre, safely jack up a vehicle, recover a bogged vehicle.
 - Remote travel:** Can be dangerous. Let someone know your planned route and expected time frame, stay with your vehicle, carry extra drinking water and don't waste it, be sun smart, conserve energy during the hottest part of the day.
 - Fuel:** Make sure you have enough - corrugated roads and low tyre pressures or low range driving will increase your fuel consumption.
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ADMIN & REGIONAL LOGISTICS

- Licencing:** Current and valid for the weight of your rig.
 - Insurance & Roadside:** Specialized caravan coverage (e.g., RACV, NRMA, CIL).
 - State Rules:** Research specific rules (e.g., U-Turn laws for long rigs in different states).
 - Permits:** National Park passes (All-entry or State-specific) and Fishing Licences.
 - Offline Maps:** Download Hema or WikiCamps for areas with zero Telstra/Optus signal.
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INTERIOR & PACKING

- Security:** WiTi Anti-Theft system or wheel/coupling locks.
 - Utilities:** 12V/240V power systems tested; fridge pre-chilled 24 hours prior.
 - Safety Gear:**
 - Fire Extinguisher (In-date) & Fire Blanket.
 - UHF Radio (Channel 18 for caravans; 40 for highway).
 - Snake Bite Kit & Satellite Comms (PLB/Starlink) for remote areas.
 - First aid kit (fully stocked)
 - Tool Kit:** Jack capable of lifting *loaded* van weight, torque wrench, and spare fuses.
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THE HOOK-UP (Final Departure)

- Coupling:** Hitch fully seated and locked.
 - Safety Chains:** Criss-crossed under the drawbar with rated 'D' shackles.
 - Breakaway Cable:** Attached to a structural point on the car (not the tow ball).
 - Jockey Wheel:** Removed or stowed in the travel position.
 - Stabilizers & Steps:** All four legs up; entry step retracted.
 - Internal Check:** TV & antenna down, fridge locked, cupboards latched, hatches closed.
 - Final Walk-Around:** Check for forgotten wheel chocks or power leads.
 - The House:** Do a final check before you leave, appliances off, alarm on, pets sorted, neighbours notified, mail re- directed or collected.
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Responsible travel starts with a plan. Safe travels on your Big Lap!

Download the [NomadReadyOz](#) app at <https://mrjimandwrongwaywendy.com.au/shop> For about the cost of a coffee you can easily tick all these important items off before you hit the road.