



Buying a Used Pop Up Camper

CHECKLIST

- ✓ Inspect roof for any damage or possible leaks. If you are purchasing a Coleman with an ABS roof, check for cracking, sagging, and delamination. For more information on Coleman ABS roofs, click [here](#).
- ✓ Check latches and seal for proper seating before you open the camper. You'll also want to check this when you close the camper back up.
- ✓ Make sure the lift system is in order and works correctly. Have the owner show you how to open the camper. Make sure you help, so you get an idea how it should feel. If possible, look under the camper and inspect the frame and lift cables.
- ✓ Inspect the stabilizer jacks, making sure they are in good working order. Have the owner show you how to raise and lower them.
- ✓ Check to make sure the door seats properly. You'll have to make sure the camper is completely level first (see more about that [here](#)), but once the door frame is seated, the door should open and close without issue.
- ✓ Make sure the bunks (and slide-out, if applicable) glide out smoothly. Have the owner show you how to set up the bunkends.
- ✓ If an awning is included, inspect the awning and carrying bag for dry rot. Have the owner show you how to set up and take down the awning.
- ✓ Check the propane hoses to make sure they are in good shape. Let the owner show you how to turn the propane on and off.
- ✓ With the stabilizers down, go inside the camper and have the owner set up the galley. Ask him to hook up the water connection and check the sink. Look under sink for visible signs of leaks and inspect the hoses. You may want to bring a flashlight for this.
- ✓ Ask the owner to show you where the water pump, fresh water tank, and hot water heater (if applicable) are located. Inspect them for signs of wear or damage. Have the owner disconnect the hook ups and run the water from the fresh water tank. Check to make sure the water pump and water heater run properly and that there are no leaks.
- ✓ Have the owner show you how to light the pilot light and run the stove, furnace, hot water heater, and refrigerator. You may want to leave the fridge running while you inspect the rest of the camper so you can come back to check to see if it is cooling off.
- ✓ Inspect the canvas for tears, patching or signs of mildew. Test all the zippers around the windows, and look for areas where the zippers may have separated from the vinyl windows.

- ✓ Check curtains and bed cushions for water spots that might indicate a possible roof leak. Look up at roof interior for any signs of water marks or damage. If possible, have the previous owner run a garden hose along the roof of the camper to demonstrate that it is water tight.
- ✓ Run all interior lights on both shore power and battery to make sure the electrical is in working order.
- ✓ Have the owner demonstrate the use of the A/C unit, if applicable.
- ✓ Check around the shower floor and cassette toilet area for leaks. Have the owner demonstrate the use of both. You can read more about cassette toilets [here](#).
- ✓ Walk the whole floor checking for soft or low spots. This could indicate a rotted subfloor.
- ✓ If the camper has an outdoor stove, have the owner demonstrate its set up and use.
- ✓ Have the owner show you where the fuses are located.
- ✓ Ask the owner if he still has any of the original manuals or paperwork. Users manuals can be helpful to have on hand once you have the camper home, but aren't absolutely necessary. Many of them can be downloaded from www.popupportal.com or other sources on the Internet.
- ✓ Ask the owner about the care and maintenance of the wheels and bearings. When were the bearings last repacked? Did the owner grease them regularly? To learn more about bearings, you can read our blog post [here](#).
- ✓ Check the tires for excessive wear and/or flat spots. Has the camper been sitting long? When were the tires last replaced? Remove the cover and check the condition of the spare tire as well.
- ✓ Once you've inspected the inside and outside thoroughly, have the owner show you how to close the camper. Make sure everything closes smoothly and that the latches fit tightly without too much effort.
- ✓ If everything checks out, and you feel comfortable purchasing the camper, have the owner help you hook the camper up to your vehicle to make sure your ball hitch and adapter fit and test the lights and turn signals.

For more information on purchasing a pop up camper, pop up camper maintenance, and camper remodeling, be sure to check out The Pop Up Princess blog at www.thepopupprincess.com.

Happy Camping!