

Title of the Video: Read This Before You Do Anything With Your RV!

By David Crossett of RV Masters

YouTube Video: <https://youtu.be/Lhkslyc6clw>

David Crossett, founder of RV Masters, sells courses online to teach prospective purchasers and users about RVs.

The RV Masters Website: <https://rvmasters.com/>

The videos: <https://rvmasters.com/shop/>

Buyers Track Online Videos \$97US - (I highly recommend this one for everyone. It is well worth the price. Ken)

Trailer Orientation Online Videos \$167 - (I highly recommend this one, especially if you have never owned a travel trailer. It is a good review for those who have been out of RVing with a travel trailer for awhile. Ken)

The following video is from his Trailer Orientation, lesson Lesson 1: 15 step guide to a safe start!

The information is available for free, online at YouTube.

In his course, he notes that the information should be used when the purchaser gets the travel trailer home.

I believe that the information should be used to do your own Pre-delivery Inspection (PDI) at the dealership, **BEFORE YOU SIGN ANY PAPERWORK!**

The following is a summary of his 15 point video.

1. Get the adapters and supplies you need from your dealer **BEFORE** you go home the first day!

Essential Items recommended by David Crossett

25' green or black water hose for flushing the sewage system

25' white or blue water hose for connecting the fresh water source to the trailer

2 sewage hoses, ~10' and ~20'. Use to dump black and grey tanks into sewage station. The more expensive heavy duty hoses really are better

90 degree sewage elbow adapter

Sewage hose cleaning adapter

2 RV dog bone adapters. One step down from 50 amp to 30 amp service and one step down from 30 amp service to 20 amp service.

Water Pressure regulator, used to make sure that the city water connection is not providing too much pressure for the piping in the trailer

Surge Protector, these are expensive but really, really necessary.

RV toilet paper, absolutely necessary as home type toilet will cause huge problems with clogging

Heavy Duty 110V exterior extension cord, 50'

Spare blade fuses (check the trailer fuse box for sizes necessary)

Disposable gloves for handling sewage hoses while dumping

First Aid kit

Coax Cable for hooking up to campground cable or possibly RV satellite dish

Supports for sewage hose(s)

Tire covers

RV cover

(There are a lot more essentials. Check my RV Essentials list (<http://theampeer.org/thoughts-on-towing/RV-Essentials-Prices.html>). Many of the items can be picked up at the RV dealership or, with preplanning, online at places like Amazon and etrailer.com. Plan on spending between \$2000 up to \$3500 for all of these items. Ken)

2. Level the trailer, stabilize it, and chock the wheels. (A simple statement, but you will need some type of leveling 'blocks', either homemade of wood or purchased, a level or levels, blocks for under the stabilizers and tongue jack and chocks. Eventually you'll want boards to place under the low wheel before using blocks on a muddy campsite. Ken)

3. Turn on the propane. Check for obvious leaks or odor. (It is a good idea to add a propane meter of some type, especially since many of the small trailers that can be pulled by the Ascent only have one #20 propane tank. Adding the meter doesn't have to be done at the dealership during the PDI, but it should be done soon after getting the trailer home. Ken)

4. Make sure the gray and black tank valves are closed.

5. Make sure that all water drains: fresh water drain/capped, low point drains off/capped, water heater plug inserted/tightened. DO NOT TURN ON THE WATER HEATER YET!

6. Exercise all DC (battery) powered components:

If you have one, ensure the 'battery disconnect' is set to allow power.

Turn the refrigerator on in gas mode – it won't get cold fast, but you should be able to tell it's working. (Put a thermometer in the refrigerator and another in the freezer. Therefore you need two refrigerator/freezer thermometers. I picked up a package of two at Meijer. Check the temperatures in the units after completing the rest of the PDI. Ken)

Check that all of the lights, inside and out are in working order.

If the trailer has a slide, check that it goes all the way in and all the way out! It's normal to hear clicking, clanking, or the motor 'wind down' at the end.

Turn on the furnace. (Let it run long enough to verify that it is working. Ken)

Check that the bathroom fans and other vent fans working.

(Added by Ken: Make sure that all of the windows open and close correctly)

7. Partially fill the freshwater tank. Look for obvious external leaks. Don't hook up to "city water" yet!

8. Test water components using the water pump (and all COLD faucets for now):

Turn on the water pump. You should hear it kick on and then stop after a few moments. (It will take a bit longer the first time the pump is turned on as it has to fill the water heater. Ken)

Check for any leaks, inside and out. Check around and under sinks, faucets, tub, and toilet.

Open a cold water faucet and wait for air to purge... water should flow after 20 seconds or so, while spitting a little air occasionally (at first).

Repeat for all faucets, shower, and flush toilet.

9. Now repeat, but use the HOT WATER faucets this time. Once the air is purged and cold water is running out of the hot faucet, you know your water heater is full (we're assuming the bypass valves are NOT engaged, and that water is being 'allowed' into the system).

10. Turn on the water heater using the 'gas' mode. GO OUTSIDE and look at the flame. Make sure it's healthy and you can identify it. Healthy meaning it's clean, burning strong (you'll hear a "blow torch" type sound), and that the heat is routing properly through exhaust.)

You should have warm/hot water in about 10 to 15 minutes.

11. Plug in the shore power.

You may need an adapter (a “dog bone”) to plug into your house.
Make sure you use your surge protector!

12. Exercise the AC power systems:

Air conditioner (you can turn on with a 20 amp circuit, however most houses are 15 amp circuits. If that’s the case, you may or may not be able to start the air conditioner without blowing a fuse somewhere).

Microwave

Outlets – ALL OF THEM, INSIDE AND OUT! (A simple AC light brought from home will work, but I purchased some inexpensive voltmeters. See [RV-Essentials-Prices.html](#). Ken)

Turn on the electric switch for the water heater (turning the gas switch off – but yes, you can run them both at the same time).

Change refrigerator to Auto, which should turn off the gas, and check to see that it is still cooling

13. Check for proper tire inflation and torque the lug nuts. (A good digital tire pressure gauge and a torque wrench is needed now along with a socket sized for the trailer lug nuts. If doing at a dealership, have them show you that the lug nuts are torqued correctly. Ken)

14. Check all the seals. Check caulking throughout entire RV. Walk the roof. THIS IS THE ONE THING THAT IS RARELY EVER COVERED AND WILL CAUSE THE MOST DAMAGE THE QUICKEST: WATER IN THE TRAILER. EVEN IF A LEAK IS COVERED, WHAT IS DAMAGED BECAUSE OF THE LEAK MAY NOT BE COVERED. Just assume that leaks are ALWAYS your responsibility!

Important note from Ken: Take the thermometers out of the refrigerator and freeze before pulling out of the dealership. They should have continued going down with the shore power plugged in. Also be sure to shut off the gas.

15. Most important step after you get home: Get some popcorn and a blanket and SLEEP IN IT! Camp out in the driveway!