

Get ready for touring

IF YOUR caravan has been in winter storage, you will no doubt be thinking about getting it ready for your spring and summer adventures. Follow our checklist to ensure you don't forget anything:

- Give the inside a good vacuum clean (not forgetting the curtains and upholstery) and use an anti-bacterial solution to wipe down the walls, ceilings and worktops.
- Place scented liners in drawers to help keep everything smelling fresh.
- Re-stock with your favourite toiletries; with space being a

premium, use miniatures where possible.

- Make sure you've got non-slip matting on shelves – for obvious reasons!
- Clean the inside of the fridge and oven if you didn't before your outfit went into storage.
- Check to see if your water filter needs changing.
- Flush through the water system and containers with sterilising fluid. Fill the water heater then turn it on to check it's working properly.
- Attach the gas bottle to check that

the fridge, cooker and heater all work and test internal electrics, too.

- Check the expiry dates on the first aid kit or any medicines you keep in your caravan and replace if necessary.
- Lubricate the underfloor spare wheel carrier.
- Check the tyres, including the spare, to make sure they're not worn or cracked.
- Check tyre pressures – if they're under inflated they can cause instability which is not only dangerous but can increase your fuel bill.
- Book your outfit in for a service. As well as the safety aspect, a well-maintained caravan will be worth more when you come to sell it than one that's been neglected.
- Check the condition of your caravan's hitch – does it work properly? Lubricate it if necessary.
- Make sure all your lights are properly working and replace any bulbs or cracked or broken glass if required.
- Check that the number plate is intact and properly secured to your caravan. Don't forget to replace the number plate if you've bought a new car recently.

- Check the condition of window seals both inside and out, and replace any that are worn or perished.
- Once you've completed all the tasks inside, give the exterior a good clean, polish and wax. It'll not only make your outfit look great, it will also better protect it from the elements.
- After all the scrubbing and cleaning, open all the doors and windows to give your home from home a good airing.

INSURANCE

And last but by no means least, make sure your insurance is up to date. When renewing your caravan insurance, remember to check that your level of cover continues to meet your needs and expectations. As the sum insured – ie caravan value – is used to calculate the premium paid, an increase or reduction in value of your vehicle will affect the premium you pay. To check your level of cover, to get a quote or to buy insurance, call the Club on 01342 336610 or simply visit caravanclub.co.uk/caravan.



Preparation, inside and out, is the key to a successful touring season



Overseas holiday insurance – what to ask

1 Does your insurance policy cover you for variable lengths of stay, offering flexible options?

Ideally, you want the flexibility of single trip, annual multi-trip and long stay options from your insurer to enable you to have complete flexibility with your travel arrangements.

2 In the event of an emergency, can you get in contact 24/7?

You'll need to know that you can talk to someone who can help at any time of the day and night.

3 Does the emergency assistance team include multi-lingual members of staff?

To have a dedicated, multi-lingual team of experts at hand is very important when you need solutions that will help to protect you and your holiday. A language barrier can cause unnecessary stress in an already difficult situation.

4 In the event of a breakdown, are you covered for hotel accommodation or alternative vehicle hire?

These are expensive to shell out for, so make sure you can claim your expenses back from your insurance.

5 If you break down, will you have roadside assistance and recovery 24/7?

You could break down at any time of the day or night, so it's important to know that you can get assistance 24 hours a day, wherever you go.

6 If you need to return home in an emergency, does your policy cover vehicle hire or rail expenses?

As with hotels and caravan hire, these expenses can add up, so take out the hassle and ensure you're covered if you need to return home.

7 Will you be able to continue your holiday following a breakdown



or accident? And then get you and your outfit (and even your dog) home at the end of your holiday? Being able to continue your holiday is probably going to be high up on your list of priorities, as is getting everybody home at the end of your trip.

For Overseas Holiday Insurance you can trust, go to caravanclub.co.uk/holidayinsurance