



# HOW TO BUY YOUR FIRST RV

You've made the decision to purchase your first RV - congratulations! Becoming an RV owner is an exciting time, but there are also plenty of logistics involved in buying your first mobile home. That's why we've designed this step-by-step guide to help you move through each stage of the RV-buying journey with confidence. Let's get started - and welcome to the family!





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## FIRST THINGS FIRST: WHAT CAN YOU TOW?

One of the very first things you need to think about is your towing vehicle. Do you own an SUV? Are you purchasing a new truck? You'll need to find the **maximum towing capacity** of your vehicle (easily found online or in your owner's manual), and keep this number in mind moving forward. You can safely purchase an RV that weighs 500-1000 pounds less than your vehicle's max towing capacity.

## TRAILER HITCH TYPES

Yep, we're still focusing on your towing vehicle! We'll get to the fun part soon enough, but it's vital that you understand what your tow vehicle is capable of before you fall in love with an RV. Determine what type of hitch your vehicle has - most SUVs and trucks have a standard bumper hitch, but some heavy-duty trucks can be outfitted with a gooseneck hitch - to narrow down your search when you start browsing RVs.

## FILTER YOUR SEARCH BY RV TYPE

Most folks find it easiest to filter their initial search by RV type. There are many types of RVs, including motorhomes, travel trailers, lightweight campers - the list goes on! But they might not all be right for you. For example, if you're not planning on bringing along an ATV or snowmobile, you probably don't need a toy hauler, and if you don't have a gooseneck-compatible truck, then a fifth-wheel trailer won't work. Searching by type will help you narrow things down early on.





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## LEARN ABOUT THE BRANDS

Once you've narrowed down the type of RV that best suits your needs and towing vehicle, it can be helpful to start browsing brands. Each brand offers something different, from a compact-living experience to ultra-luxurious mobile homes. Check out our [brands page](#) to learn more about some of Canada's top-selling manufacturers and what they offer.

## SET A BUDGET

This is tricky, because some folks don't want to be inhibited by sticker price (after all, there are plenty of affordable financing options available), while others feel a bit more at ease shopping within a budget. Consider what type of monthly cost you're comfortable with, and use it as a rough guideline. Our new [RV payment calculator](#) is a helpful tool to help get you started.

## CHOOSING THE RIGHT RV: SPACE

Space is one of the most important factors when choosing the right RV! Be realistic about how many people are likely to be onboard, how much gear you'll be carrying and how much space each person needs to be comfortable. There's nothing worse than wishing you had opted for a larger unit while you're halfway through a road trip!



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## CHOOSING THE RIGHT RV: MUST-HAVE AMENITIES

Again - be realistic about what you need. Can you really manage without a shower? Some non-negotiables to consider include:

- Toilet type (indoor vs. outdoor) and shower
- Cooking space and food storage
- Sleeping quarters, both size and arrangement (Do the kids need a quiet space? Do *you* need a quiet space?!)
- Electricity needs (heating, cooling and must-have electronics)

## CHOOSING THE RIGHT RV: COMFORT FEATURES

It's the little things that can really turn your RV into a home! Think about how you plan to use your RV, and consider extras like an awning, slide-outs for more space, storage options for additional gear, a BBQ, upgraded tanks to live off-the-grid for longer, how many windows you want and even weather-proofing options for all-season camping.

## SCHEDULE SOME TOURS

By this point, you've probably spent some time [browsing our inventory](#) and have found a few units that interest you. It's time to [give us a call](#) and schedule a tour! Your South Thompson RV sales rep will show you every nook and cranny of the RVs you'd like to see, so that you can get a real sense of what RV life is like.





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## LET'S TALK ABOUT RV FINANCING

Like we said - you have options! Most people don't know that buying an RV is more like buying a home than a car, with long amortization periods that keep your monthly payments surprisingly low. We'll explore different scenarios until we find a payment plan that works with your budget.

## PROTECT YOUR INVESTMENT

Depending on the type of RV you buy (particularly a motorhome), you might need to secure insurance before you can take your new RV home. Mandatory or not, we suggest [exploring insurance options](#) with your South Thompson sales rep to protect your investment, and your family.

## IT'S THE FINAL INSPECTION

Before you hit the open road, we'll do one last walk-through here at the South Thompson dealership. We'll demonstrate that each element is in perfect working order before handing over the keys. Write down any last questions you may have, and be sure to bring them to your final inspection - but don't worry, we're here to help long after you drive off the lot.

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## WELCOME TO THE FAMILY!

You've done it - you're an RV owner! It's time to head home with your brand-new RV, pack up your gear and get ready for a lifetime of fun and adventure. To help you decide where to go first, be sure to check out online resources for [RV camping in BC](#), and bookmark the [South Thompson RV Blog](#) for the latest in RV news and BC camping information.

## CLOSING THOUGHTS

We can't wait to see you get the most out of your new investment! Here are a few closing thoughts to keep in mind as you set out for your next adventure:

- Keep up with regular maintenance, including winterization and de-winterization, to keep your new RV in tip-top shape for years to come
- Always check with local news sources before you hit the road, especially if you're planning to head off-the-grid
- Book your campgrounds in advance to avoid disappointment
- Connect with bloggers and other RV enthusiasts online for inspiration
- Try to set aside time to learn basic RV maintenance and first aid
- Pack lightly and efficiently, and plan well for emergencies
- Slow down, take photos and soak it all in - you're living the dream!



# BUY YOUR FIRST RV WITH SOUTH THOMPSON!

We hope that this first-time RV buyer's guide has provided you with some helpful tools as you embark on this exciting journey - and don't forget that you can count on the team here at South Thompson RV every step of the way! Click on any of the links below to get the ball rolling on the RV-buying process!

**[BROWSE NEW RV INVENTORY](#)**

**[BROWSE USED RV INVENTORY](#)**

**[VISIT OUR RV PAYMENT CALCULATOR](#)**

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