

CHECKLIST TO FREEDOM



- Educate yourself on RVing/Full-timing
 - YouTube ([Cheap RV Living](#), [Long Long Honeymoon](#), [Adventure Van Man](#), [Less Junk More Journey](#), [RV Lifestyle](#)) WATCH THE GOOD AND BAD!!
 - Websites ([RV 101](#), [Technomadia](#), [The RV Geeks](#))
 - FaceBook groups (Fulltime RVers, RV Newbies, Living the RV Dream)

- Identify the Pros and Cons of full-timing and then determine if you can live with the “Cons”

- Choose a RV, but don’t purchase it (not yet)
 - Research different makes and models and determine which would best meet your living requirements and financial needs
 - Physically visit and tour the RVs you’re interested in
 - Inquire about delivery wait time (if purchasing new)
 - If you’re interested in a pull-behind trailer, you will also need to research your tow vehicle and the costs associated with it. If you’re interested in a RV that you drive, you may or may not want to consider a small vehicle to tow behind it. You will figure this out while researching everything about RV’s and what will best meet your living requirements.

- Identify the cost of equipping your RV (generator, surge protectors, tire pressure monitoring system, sewer hoses, portable air compressor, etc.)

- Identify home of domicile: You have to have a physical address, so acquiring one in a state with no income taxes is best – Florida, Texas and South Dakota are a few. You can acquire an address through a mail service (not a P.O. Box) or use the address of a family member. Know the costs of registering your RV and/or tow vehicle in those states and the differences in the cost of insuring both. Once you’ve decided on a state, research and know what documentation is necessary for you to register your RV and/or tow vehicle, and to acquire a driver’s license. Check out our post “[Change of Domicile](#)” for what was required of us to make Florida our new home state.

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- Identify income or supplemental income while full- timing. THESE WEBSITES ARE A GOOD PLACE TO START ([Workamper](#), [Recreation Resource Management](#), [Amazon](#), [Sugar Beet Harvest](#), etc.)

- Rent the type of RV you want to own and go camping! Go several times and for extended weekends, if not a week at a time. If you can't find a specific RV to rent, make a friend with one :) or rent something similar. If that's not possible, rent ANY RV and get out there.

- Make a budget
 - Cost of financing a RV and/or Tow Vehicle
 - RV/Vehicle Insurance
 - RV/Vehicle maintenance
 - Medical/Dental Insurance
 - medications
 - Campsite costs
 - Food
 - Cellphone/Internet
 - Gas
 - Credit Cards (hopefully these were already paid off)
 - Clothing
 - Recreation
 - Mail forwarding services
 - Storage unit rental fees
 - Misc.

- Set a goal date to hit the road full-time (Month/Year)

- Set another goal to pay off all current debt and have a certain amount of money in savings (you NEED an emergency fund!). The date to achieve this goal should be earlier than the date you hit the road. Side note: this step is applicable to everyone regardless of their living situation or goals.

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- Once you've taken all the steps above and have decided that you still want to transition to living and traveling full-time in a RV, and that you're able to, financially, the hardest steps are still come.
- Start purging! Get rid of excess stuff. You can't take it all with you, and you may not want the monthly expense that comes along with storing it.
 - Garage sales
 - Pawn shops
 - Donate/give away
 - Store it (if you can afford it)
 - Don't get rid of all your furniture. You will need some of it to stage your house when you put it on the market
- Purchase your RV and/or tow vehicle. It's important to have this by time your house sells, and if you're buying a new RV there could be a wait time for delivery (it took over four months for ours). Once you have it, use it and use it as often as you can. This is a great time to work out any bugs and still be close to the dealer you bought it from if case you need to take it back.
- Put your house on the market: You can add a clause that includes the date the new owners take possession of your house so that your last day of employment and sale of your home are not too far apart. However, if potential buyers want to move in right away, you can always move into your RV and park it at a campground until you've completed your last day of work. The basic idea is, don't quit your job and then end up waiting several months for your home to sell. As you get closer to your goal date timing can sometimes become an issue, so you may have to tweak things here and there to make as smooth a transition as possible.
- Put in final notice with employer
- Hold/Change address with post office

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- Update address on bank accounts, bills and important websites (go paperless on all important bills)

- CHANGE OF DOMICILE (you have already determined this)
 - Physically drive to your new state of residence
 - Change the Insurance on your RV and/or Vehicle to your new state of residence
 - Get a driver's license in your new state of residence
 - Register your RV and/or vehicle in your new state of residence

- You're free! Enjoy your travels, the people you will meet, and all the experiences you will have!

The above list includes the steps we took to transition from a traditional lifestyle to living and traveling full-time in a RV. Everyone's situation is different, however, so just as everything on the list won't necessarily apply, we're also sure there are additional steps that could be implemented. Find what works for you and add or delete. Our list covers essential steps that shouldn't be skipped, some food for thought with an emphasis on research, and a general order in which to complete things. If there's only one thing you take away from the list, however, we hope it's our recommendation that you learn as much about the lifestyle, and whether or not it's possible for you, before purchasing anything, selling a home, or quitting a job. Good luck and safe travels!!!!