



Outdoors Made Simple

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The good news about looking for a camper is that there are a lot of options! The bad news It can be overwhelming to find a camper that meets your needs. If you are a [member of this site](#) and you look at the travel trailer list I have, it has over 90 different models! That is a lot. The reality is most people have 1 or 2 must have items on their list and that can narrow your search significantly! I've made this check list for you to try to narrow down you list. You can then use those criteria to filter my long list into something manageable. Not a member? Find out more here.

Keep in mind, my research is focused on pull behind campers (mostly travel trailers but some other types) that are less than 5000 lbs. fully loaded and less than 24 feet long. If you are open to something bigger, something drivable or a camper van, this sheet is probably still useful but I can't speak to how much any of these features will or will not limit your search.

Uncommon features: These will narrow your options down quickly so if you have something on this list as a must have, you might not be able to be as picky about the other things, I would recommend you filter your search by the feature I've listed as "rare" in the common feature column. The first 3 items – budget, weight, and camper type - are probably the most important for you to determine ahead of time.

Confused about terms? See [this post](#) for definitions.

Confused about tow capacity? See [this post](#) for more information.

Basic considerations:

When do you want your trailer?

- Currently, wait times for new trailers can be from a few months to a few years (really!). You may have to be flexible if you want something now.

Will you be looking for new, used or either?

- As with the new market, the used market has varied substantially with the market mostly being in favor of the seller.

How long do you think you might have this trailer?

- The reason you might think about this is that trailer quality varies. If you are planning to have this for a long time (we plan to use ours in retirement and we are a LONG ways from retirement) then you might want to spend more for higher quality. If you are planning for the next 5 years, a used model of medium quality might do just fine.



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Key Limiting Features:

Choose these first, if you have rare features here, you will want to search based on this

		Your Ranking			
Camper Feature	How common is this feature	Must Have	Nice to Have	Don't care	Must NOT have
Budget					
<\$15,000 (If this is your criteria, you will need to look at used campers – a totally reasonable option!)	Rare				
\$15,000 - \$25,000 (your best option will still be to look used but there are some trailers that are <\$25,000 new)	Rare				
\$25,000 - \$35,000 (you will find lots of options in this price range)	Common				
>\$35,000	None				
Weight (GVWR)					
<2,000 lbs	Rare				
<2,800 lbs	Rare				
<3,500 lbs	Medium				
<5,000 lbs	Common				
Camper Type					
Travel Trailer	Common				
A-frame	Rare				
Tear Drop (listed as rare for this list because most tear drops only sleep 2)	Rare				
Pop-up	Medium				
Hybrid	Medium				



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Interior Camper Features

		Your Ranking			
Camper Feature	How common is this feature	Must Have	Nice to Have	Don't care	Must NOT have
Beds					
King bed	Rare				
Walk around queen bed	Rare				
Queen bed	Medium				
Bunk beds	Common				
Bathroom					
Toilet/Shower combination (wet bath)					
Separate toilet and shower					
Non-flush toilet and outdoor shower					
No toilet or shower					
Fridge					
2 way refrigerator (runs on 12V or 120V)					
3 way refrigerator (runs on 12V, 120V or propane)					
Fridge Size					
3.1 cubic feet	Standard				
4.3 cubic feet (2 way only)	Common				
6.0 cubic feet	Medium				
8.0 cubic feet (this will limit your RV brand options)	Medium				

Interior Camper Features continued

		Your Ranking			
Camper Feature	How common is this feature	Must Have	Nice to Have	Don't care	Must NOT have
Windows					
Large front window	Rare				
Window in bathroom	Rare				
Extra windows in the trailer (generally a rear window and/or an extra window on the sides)	Medium				
Customization and Interior Styling					
High customizable	Rare				
Medium customizable	Medium				
Low customizable	Common				
Modern interiors (see definition)	Medium				
Retro styling	Rare				
Interior Height					
6 ft to 6 ft 2 inches	Common				
6 ft 2 inches to 6 ft 5 inches	Medium				
>6 ft 5 inches	Rare				
Other interior					
All electric	Rare				



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Exterior Camper Features

		Your Ranking			
Camper Feature	How common is this feature	Must Have	Nice to Have	Don't care	Must NOT have
Solar					
Solar enabled (you can add an external solar panel)	Common				
Solar equipped (standard or optional roof mounted solar panels)	Medium				
Safety features					
Standard electronic trailer brakes	Rare				
Optional electronic trailer brakes	Common				
Frame materials					
Fiberglass	Medium				
Aluminum	Rare				
Canvas/Tent	Rare				
Other Exterior features					
Fits in a standard garage	Rare				
outside kitchen	Rare				