

HITTING THE ROAD CHECKLIST



DONE	12 MONTHS BEFORE LEAVING	NOTES
	Start saving all drawstring bags, cosmetic bags, cookware and handbag cloth bags, Velcro	<i>These will be used to store all breakables, frying pans, cords, cables, food sealers, printer etc in Motorhome, caravan, campervan, camper trailer</i>
	Decision are we selling or renting house out. If renting out do maintenance checklist what is required to be done, meet with property managers understand current market value, costs associated with renting it out	<i>This is a BIG decision.</i>
	Document EVERY bill that comes in on an annual bills spreadsheet, date normally arrives, name of company, contact phone number, Customer Reference, rough amount of bill, notes as to what it is for	<i>When you hit the road, you will know what bills to expect when, if one doesn't arrive you have a contact number and reference to chase it up and ask it be emailed. Try and change as many bills/statements to be received by email as possible. Cancel as many services as possible - every dollar counts. Put reminders in your phone calendar so nothing important gets forgotten (rego, insurance)</i>
	Gifts for Christmas, Birthdays, Anniversaries and any other celebration - write a list of what you need. Keep it real. Tell the family, so you are only receiving gifts that you will actually need.	<i>We have put together lots of lists on our blog (as you can see we LOVE lists), all our equipment (or most of it) electrical, kitchen, outdoors and misc and kids gift lists to name a few - check them out for ideas.</i>
	Wills and Powers of Attorney	<i>No one likes to discuss it but boy will you be happy you did them in the event they are needed. You do not know what the future holds and after working in legal offices for over 20 years - it IS a good idea to get it sorted.</i>
	Flybuys Points	<i>Save them up, we did for a few years, a nice backup on the road if you get hit with a string of maintenance or bills to have groceries covered for a while!</i>
	First assessment and clean out all wardrobes and drawers	<i>Do not buy any clothes or shoes for kids in particular in advance for your travel, they could outgrow them and you will need to buy again</i>

DONE	6 MONTHS BEFORE LEAVING	NOTES
	Get packing supplies: boxes, packing paper, tape, markers	
	Start Using up food in the freezer, cleaning supplies, excess shampoos, conditioner, hairspray, laundry powder	<i>This will not only save you more money to put away in travel money you will be surprised how many bottles are in your cupboards.</i>
	Resume	<i>Don't leave till the last minute any closer to leaving and it becomes a little hectic - even if you don't think you want to work while on the road. Opportunities come up you may need it and it is a lot more convenient to do it now.</i>
	Check expiry date of Drivers Licence, Credit cards and request replacement cards early. In most cases you can renew your drivers licence up to 6 months before it expires	<i>So important, this is a big pain in the butt if you work this out too late!</i>
	Going overseas - check expiry date of passport	
	Ensure Bank Statements are electronic only	<i>In this day and age with identity fraud, mail getting lost you do not want to have them go astray and may not want family members knowing your finances (good or bad) if they are receiving and opening your mail while you are away.</i>
	Insurance of Rig, phone around compare and read the terms and conditions (understand the value of contents, what is covered)	<i>Is there a discount for membership or loyalty, ASK.</i>
	Check notice periods required for utilities (gas, electricity, internet, cable TV) DIARISE	<i>You do not want to pay for one more day than you have to, know your notice periods, get rid of anything that is not absolutely essential</i>
	Download Music to Phones, iPod, Walkman	<i>There is a LOT of out of reception time on the road, have music or audio books ready to fill in the long hours driving</i>
	Download Apps for Phones, tablets (Wikicamps, Camps Australia Wide, Mapsme, mobile phone provider)	
	KIDS? Download educational apps for tablets	<i>We also downloaded while connected to internet, additional educational tutorials, resources of various places we knew we would be visiting that had worksheets or information packs so data would not be required on the road</i>
	KIDS? Schooling Options	<i>How long are you going for, so much stuff on Cake and Eat it 3 blog including resources, YouTube clips on what we do and worksheets on places we have visited</i>
	Important Documents. Scan in and save to external hard drive in files so easily accessed if required/stolen. These will be coming WITH you.	<i>These would include all <u>current</u> insurance policies, birth certificates, marriage certificate, trust deeds, passports, powers of attorney, copy of all cards in your wallet, medical records,</i>

To blog or not to blog? Facebook page/group	<i>Don't leave it till the last minute, set it up as soon as possible especially if a blog, boy does it take some work getting used to it. Everyone will be asking you how to follow you, you don't want the added pressure. If totally organised order some business cards with a picture of your rig or travel name on Facebook etc. Heaps easier when meeting people to hand the correct details on one card.</i>
Health check-ups / Dentist / Skin Cancer check	<i>Do everything before you leave, it is a lot easier when you know where to find the medical services, who have all your records and good to go knowing you have a clean bill of health.</i>
Check any auto direct debits off credit cards / accounts - check they are on your annual bills list	
Assess Power Options on the road	<i>Solar, generator, battery packs</i>
Mobile phone Data	<i>OK so imagine what you think you will need on the road, now double it LOL I'm joking (sort of) there is plenty of places to find free WIFI and I now have a hidden radar for it. Seriously though see what is available - ensure at least one phone is with Telstra</i>
First Aid Kit	<i>Start getting the essentials you know you need now, a little each week will go unnoticed, all at once and you might need a glass a wine (not so bad but ouch) So personal, everyone likes different things but a thermometer is a must in my opinion (and spare batteries)</i>
Larger or more expensive furniture items and memorabilia start selling NOW	<i>Don't leave valuable items to the last minute then have to take whatever someone is prepared to pay for it as you HAVE to get rid of it. Seems like forever away when six months to go, trust us it goes VERY fast. Start now, any memorabilia, large furniture items list on gumtree, eBay, Facebook. We gave away LOTS and was happy to do so but don't leave this till the choice is taken away from you.</i>
ETOLL, GOVIA, CITYLINK accounts	<i>If you have any toll road account make sure you details are accurate as if you get a toll you would rather know about it at the time</i>
Navigation options / GPS	<i>We have found our Tom Tom invaluable, details of it can be found under Cake and Eat it 3 Rig Electronic Equipment & Product. If you have one check it is working ok, download updated maps for where you are going (while you have internet)</i>
Labelling of Cords, Chargers	<i>Work out which ones do multiple items, important items need more than one. We have three of some, doubles sit in vehicle for charging while driving. Start storing them there so you know how many you do/don't have.</i>
LPG Gas stickers on storage - do you have them	<i>Easily sourced off eBay</i>
Rig Name	<i>Most people like their trip name on their rig, we had Vinyl lettering done, happy to refer anyone in Perth</i>
Find or look at Purchasing, cases for phones, iPad, tablets	<i>If the vibration of corrugations doesn't affect them, bull dust will. Protection of any kind is a step in the right direction</i>
Dummy Run	<i>If you can and if even for a weekend go for a short trip and check what works, location of items and move what is required. It will take a few times to really settle with what is actually required. Don't be hard on yourself we have done this multiple times and what we take gets less and less and we don't miss anything (OK maybe the coffee machine when we are overseas but sacrifices, sacrifices)</i>

DONE	3-4 WEEKS BEFORE LEAVING	NOTES
	TIME TO START GETTING EXCITING.....NOT LONG NOW	
	Set aside critical documents and items you will keep with you - suggest a folder that closes over so nothing can fall out	<i>Put in a safe place, not THE safe place that swallows up items when put there (hehehe)</i>
	Medical Prescriptions	<i>Have you got repeat prescriptions for medicines sorted</i>
	Mail re-direction - complete paperwork	<i>What are you doing to mail, re-direct to family member, mail redirection company</i>
	Family and friends	<i>Organise drinks / dinners / goodbyes start early as lpossible, the last week or so will be flat out. Don't forget the kids need pictures with their friends and give them a slip of paper to hand to their besties with your Facebook page for the trip so they can keep in contact.</i>
	Ensure Electricity, Gas, Internet all booked to be disconnected / cancelled	
	Packing the rig	<i>Take photos of everything as it goes into rig, you will then know for insurance what is in there. Just like a house when something happens you are so consumed by the situation it is hard to remember what was in there.</i>
	Safety Check	<i>Tyres on all wheels of Rig ok, Batteries checked over, spare fuses, globes at the ready. Download manual for vehicle if you don't have one and save to external Hard drive or USB.</i>
	Any memberships you require on the road - keep a list in notes on your phone or the relevant apps	<i>Caravan and Motorhome Association, Check what discounts your roadside assistance offers, flybuys, entertainment club, USE THEM</i>

Organise Roadside Assistance / upgrade, if required	<i>Understand the difference between membership levels and check if your insurer offers cheaper alternative as addition to policy</i>
Insurance on House if rented out - Landlords insurance	This is absolutely imperative, non negotiable. You do not want to be enjoying your trip and get a phone call saying there has been an incident and funds required urgently. If you need recommendations drop us a line.
Start changing food into the containers you will travel with	<i>This way you won't buy large packets that then need whatever doesn't fit to be thrown out, starts to reduce food holdings, also sees what you use most and is the container size allowed enough? Too much?</i>
Install Steering wheel covers, seat cover protectors	<i>We have a list under Cake and Eat it 3 rig on the blog, protection against the temperatures you will come in contact with is important. Remember you are chasing the sun!</i>

DONE	1-2 WEEKS BEFORE LEAVING	NOTES
	Defrost freezer	
	Clean refrigerator, stove, and oven	
	Ensure Electricity, Gas, Internet all booked to be disconnected / cancelled	<i>Keep a copy of the last bill for each with you until they have been paid, cancelled and the date for the next payment has past successfully.</i>
	Clean the house, outdoor areas, weed garden, mow lawns close to leaving as convenient	
	Return cable box, cable modem, DSL modem if necessary	
	Organize keys for Property Manager	<i>They will need to get them cut if you don't provide two full sets, which you will be charged for</i>
	Wash Rig / Vehicle, Van, Camper Trailer, Motorhome	<i>Not kidding, you don't know when the next time will be. Check windscreen wipers, tyre pressures and don't forget the spare!</i>

Can you believe it, you have done it - what a feeling!! See you out there, safe travels.....

