



AIRSTREAM
TECH HELP GROUP

Dick Martin, BRN 2753, Chair

techhelp@wbcci.org

The Airstream Tech Help Group has been established to provide assistance to the membership experiencing technical problems. We will respond directly to you in response to your email describing a problem. Examples of questions, modifications or upgrades that might be of interest to members will be published in the Blue Beret. We hope you will find this service of value in the care and feeding of your Airstream.

Checklists for Camping

Welcome to 2023!

As we begin a new year, it's always good to look back and review some of the things that went well and some that could use improvement.

One of the ways that I think we could reduce the stress of our departures and arrivals is to create checklists. Checklists are an easy way to help us remember to pack up all the needed items for an outing with the Excella. Once you create a set of checklists, you can continue to update and improve them.

Here are some **checklists** that we have found to be helpful:

- Departure List
- Arrival List
- Tool/Equipment List
- Food/Beverage List
- Safety/Security List
- Emergency Contact List

Let's take a look at each list in more detail, and develop a good starting point for your personal lists. So, get out some paper (or your favorite laptop or tablet) and let's get started.

Departure List

This list should contain all of the items that you check before you depart home or the current camp site. These may include:

- Check the water level of your fresh water tank
- Check the level of your propane tanks

- Check the tire inflation and torque the lug nuts on the trailer
- Check the hitch to confirm it is all connected correctly.
- Check the tail lights for left/right/brake operation
- Check all your windows to make sure they are closed and locked
- Check that the TV antenna is down and steps are up
- Check that the water pump is off, and all cabinets are closed tightly
- Lock your camper door before you depart



Arrival List

Check in at the office of the campground (if at a campground), or check in with the host if at a Harvest Host/Boondockers Welcome, or with the

manager of a business where you plan to spend the night.

Look over the site, check for overhanging tree branches, the location of the shore power, water connection and waste dump. Pull through or back in carefully, using a spotter if possible.

Connect shore power (connect plug with breaker off, then turn breaker on) through a surge protector/EMS, and connect water hose using a quality filter and pressure regulator. Many folks connect the sewer hose when they arrive; we usually only connect if before we leave, avoiding the trip hazard and letting the black tank fill as high as possible before you dump it.

Depending on the wind conditions, you can put out your awnings, lay out your patio mat and add a table cloth to the picnic table.

There are some good phone apps that will help you orient your TV antenna to pick up local stations, allowing you to watch the local news and weather reports.

Tool/Equipment List

We bring a basic tool kit, a small bottle jack, lug nut wrench, a set of gloves, a torque wrench, a couple of 2x8 blocks, or a Trailer-Aid ramp for tandem axle trailers.

Bring your grill, propane tank (if LP), or charcoal with starter chimney, a lighter stick and a set of grill tools.

If you bring bicycles, check that the mounting bolts for the rack are tight, and that your bikes are mounted securely on the rack. Using a quality bike lock will help keep your bikes secure.

If you are planning on boondocking, you may want to bring your portable generator, a small bottle of engine oil, and an approved gasoline container, with non-ethanol fuel.

If you have a portable fire pit, remember to include an LP tank if gas, or a box of firewood and a starter block/ kindling if wood.



A portable fire pit can be a valuable tool to have when camping

A small hatchet/axe, a two-pound compact hammer, and a set of clear safety glasses for spitting firewood and creating kindling.

Don't forget your flashlight, a head lamp and a couple sets of the correct sized batteries for your night walks with your pet or star gazing walks.

Food/Beverage List

Before you depart, plan for the next week of meals. If you are going into very remote areas, you may need to plan for a longer time.

Shop based on your meal plan, and store away in the RV or back of your tow vehicle if there is space.

Be sure to keep a good supply of the basics, including: salt, pepper, spices and herbs, flour, sugar, baking powder, baking soda, olive oil, cooking oil or spray, pancake mix and condiments.



Having a good supply of basic ingredients and utensils is a good rule to follow when traveling

We find that using a quality water filter/pitcher saves carrying a lot of bottled water. Bring an extra filter for your device.

If you are a coffee drinker, bring a good supply of filters, coffee and creamer/sweetener if you choose.

If you enjoy an adult beverage with dinner or at the campfire, be sure to include these items in a padded container to prevent damage. Also make sure there is a bottle opener and corkscrew in your rig.

Safety/Security List

- A quality First Aid Kit
- Fire extinguishers in the RV and tow vehicle
- A set of safety triangles/flares
- A good quality folding/fixed knife with sheath
- A shovel and bucket for putting out a campfire
- A padlock and a security cable to secure your generator
- A spare key for tow vehicle/motorhome and trailer
- Depending on the local regulations, you may want to bring your own personal protection. If you do, be sure to store in a safe and legal way.



First aid kits check in at top of the list when putting together a safety/security list

Emergency Lists

- List of Emergency Contacts with phone and email addresses.
- List of your doctor(s) with phone and practice name.
- List of each person's current medications.
- Copy of insurance policy declaration pages for tow vehicle and trailer, or motorhome.
- Copy of medical insurance policy number and company for each person traveling with you.
- Copy of SkyMed/travel insurance policy number and contact phone number.

Store these Emergency Lists in a secure container that is easily accessible.

Remember that these lists are just a starting point. Please take these lists and make them your own. Add to and revise your lists as you use them.

We hope using checklists will help remove some of the stress when getting ready for a trip, and also during the trip.

If you have technical questions or comments, please send them to techhelp@wbcci.org.

Happy Camping!