



THE WHEEL WORLD

THINKING OF PURCHASING AN RV? FOLLOW THESE TIPS TO AVOID BUYER'S REMORSE.

If you've been ogling your neighbor's motor home or bingeing on *Going RV* on the Travel Channel, a recreational vehicle may be in your future. But before you sign on the dotted line, consider some advice from those who've been there, done that.

▶ **Determine your budget.** There's no sense wasting time shopping for a vehicle you can't afford. According to Marc and Tricia Leach, hosts of the popular travel podcast *Keep Your Daydream*, you should choose something about 20% under your budget to allow for unexpected costs—repairs, insurance and storage, to name a few.

Plus, you'll want money left over to pay for your on-the-road adventures.

▶ **Determine your travel needs.** Where do you want to go: into the woods or well-paved tourist destinations? Some RVs are too big to maneuver anywhere but specially equipped trailer parks, or may be too hard to navigate through a big city.



Another consideration: Who will be traveling? If you have a big family or want to accommodate the grandkids, you may need a bigger space.

And are you planning on shorter trips where roughing it is manageable, or months-long tours where you'll want comfort and air conditioning?

▶ **Rent first.** Alan McCullough and Veronica Hester owned a fold-down trailer for 15 years before purchasing the luxurious, 32-foot motor home they soon realized was too large to allow for the spontaneity and communing with nature they enjoyed.

"People [should] rent the type of RV they are considering buying and drive it to the types of places they want to go—even just for a weekend. Make sure the length and amenities are those you want," McCullough says.

Online organizations like rvshare.com use the Airbnb model to make renting an RV convenient and affordable.

No matter what you choose, remember that the best RV is one that meets your current budget, needs and goals.

You can always upgrade in the future once you have a few miles under your belt.