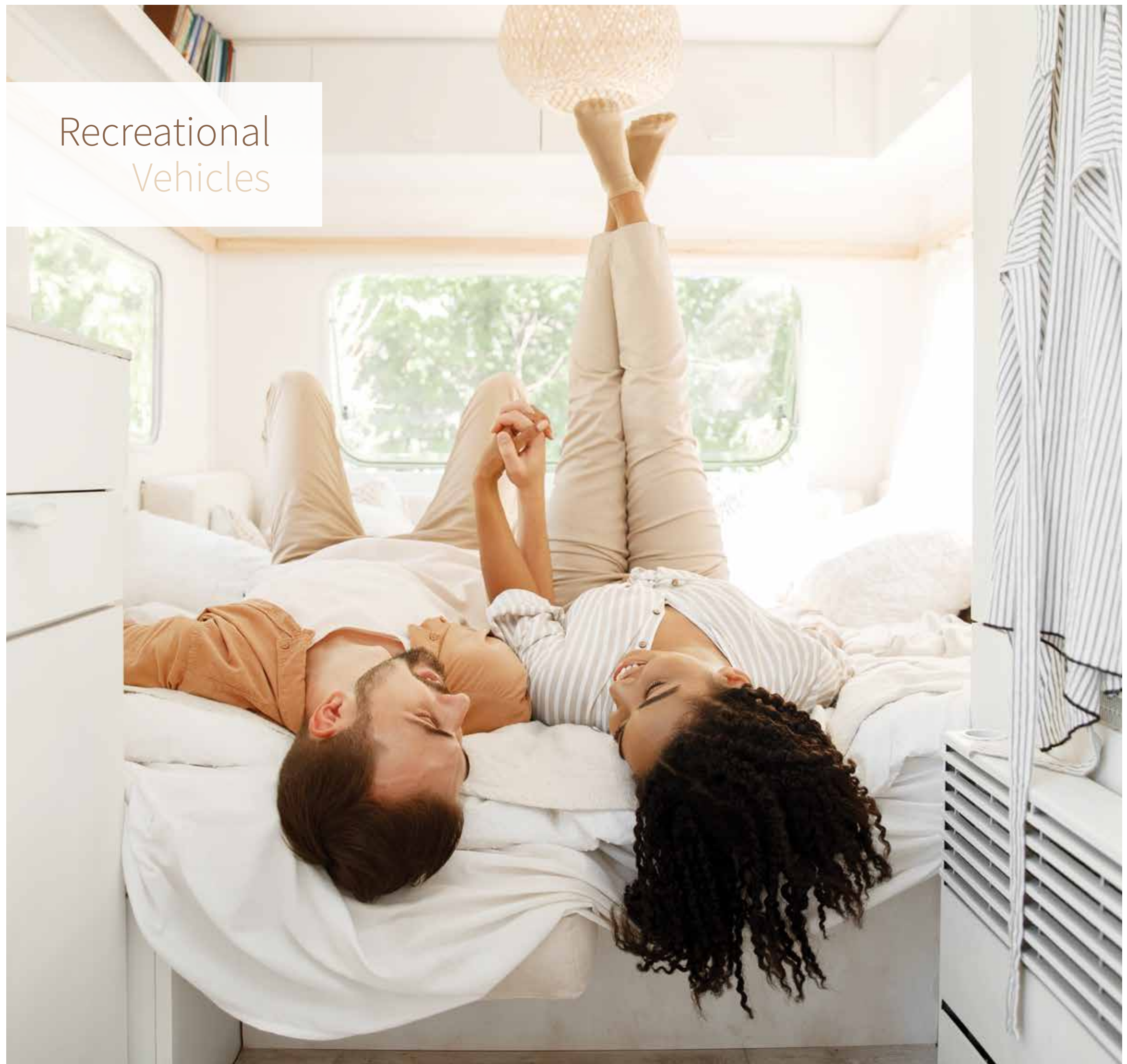


Recreational Vehicles



RV Pandemic Sales

The RV industry fared relatively well during the COVID-19-related shutdowns, as people looked for ways to vacation while staying socially distanced.

GO RVing reports that 430,412 units were sold in 2020, up 6% from 2019, despite the shutdowns. An even bigger boom in the industry was predicted for 2021, with an estimate of more than 533,000 units sold, surpassing the highest sales in recent history. In June 2020, Ipsos said 46 million Americans planned to take an RV trip in the next 12 months.

GO RVing contributes “intense consumer interest” in RVs during the pandemic to “people turn(ing) to RVs as a way to have the freedom to travel and experience an active outdoor lifestyle while also controlling their environment.” ITR Economics also points to a general upturn in the economy as a factor driving demand.

WHAT IT MEANS

Manufacturers have increased production to meet the demand. Models are available from \$9,000 up to \$100,000+, making it easy to become an RV owner no matter what your income bracket.

The RV Industry Association undertook a massive study of RV owners in early 2021 to better understand the market. They found that 11.2 million



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households own an RV, and 31% of respondents were first-time owners. And RVing isn't just popular among seniors. The study found that owners come from a wide range of ages and genders, as well as income and education levels.

GET IN ON THE TREND

As schools and workplaces

went remote during the pandemic, going on the road while staying connected digitally was an enticing option for families. Now that many of these places are reopening, it's likely that going forward, it will be easier for families to travel while staying engaged in their daily routines. You might decide to travel season-

ally or during scheduled school or work breaks.

Some families have even turned to “roadschooling,” which involves traveling by RV and learning along the way. MobileRVing.com gives the following example: “Think of how wonderful it could be to learn about our legislative government while camping in

Washington DC.”

Even if you're simply looking to avoid crowded vacation spots as the pandemic continues, RVing could be for you.

Why not invest your regular vacation budget into an RV that can continue to provide camping adventures for your family into the future?

Quick Camping Dinners

When you're camping, you'll likely want to make easy-to-prepare meals so you can spend as much time as possible relaxing by the campfire.

Foil packets make for quick, easy meals that will hit the spot and not require a lot of prep or cleanup.

They can be prepared at home before you leave for your trip and simply tossed on the fire to cook.

These classic camping dinners that can be customized with different proteins and vegetables to satisfy whatever craving you have.



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BARBECUE CHICKEN FOIL PACKETS

Source: Pillsbury.com

Ingredients

4 boneless skinless chicken breasts, cut in 1-inch pieces SAVE \$
2 cups barbecue sauce
2 cups drained pineapple tidbits
1 red bell pepper, diced SAVE \$
1 small red onion, diced

Directions

1. Heat oven to 375°F. Cut 4 large sheets of foil; arrange singly on flat surface.

2. In medium bowl, toss together 4 boneless skinless chicken breasts, cut in 1-inch pieces, and 2 cups barbecue sauce until chicken is fully coated.

3. Divide chicken pieces evenly among sheets of foil. Divide 2 cups drained pineapple tidbits, 1 bell pepper, diced, and 1 small red onion, diced, evenly over chicken on foil sheets.

4. Bring up 2 sides of foil over chicken so edges meet. Seal edges, making tight 1/2-inch fold; fold again, allowing space on sides for heat circulation and expansion. Fold other sides to seal.

5. Bake 35 to 40 minutes or until juice of chicken is clear when center of thickest part is cut (at least 165°F). To grill, place foil packs on preheated grill. Cook 10 minutes.

Turn packs over; cook 10 to 15 minutes longer or until juice of chicken is clear when center of thickest part is cut (at least 165°F).

SHRIMP SCAMPI FOIL PACKETS

Source: DamnDelicious.net

Ingredients

1 1/2 pounds medium shrimp, peeled and deveined
1/2 cup unsalted butter, melted
2 tablespoons dry white wine
4 cloves garlic, minced
1 tablespoon chopped fresh rosemary

1 tablespoon chopped fresh thyme leaves

1 tablespoon freshly squeezed lemon juice, or more, to taste

Zest of 1 lemon

1/2 teaspoon crushed red pepper flakes

Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste

2 tablespoons chopped fresh parsley leaves

Directions

1. Preheat a gas or charcoal grill over high heat.

2. In a large bowl, combine shrimp, butter, wine, garlic, rose-

mary, thyme, lemon juice, lemon zest and red pepper flakes; season with salt and pepper, to taste.

3. Cut four sheets of foil, about 12-inches long. Divide shrimp mixture into 4 equal portions and add to the center of each foil in a single layer.

4. Fold up all four sides of each foil packet over the shrimp, covering completely and sealing the packets closed.

5. Place foil packets on the grill and cook until just cooked through, about 10-12 minutes.

6. Serve immediately, garnished with parsley, if desired.

Packing List

If you go out in your recreational vehicle often, it's a good idea to make a packing list. This will help ensure you don't end up far from home without vital supplies.

You might consider making two kinds of packing lists — one standing list that contains items you need to take with you every time you go out, and a second list with items specific to each camping trip.

STANDING PACKING LIST

Keep this packing list in the notes app on your phone or written on a piece of paper inside the RV. Each time you prepare to go on a trip, follow the list, checking off items as you go.

Here are some items you might need on every trip.

- Pots, pans, dishes, flatware, cooking utensils, cups, food storage and more.

- Food and sundries.
- Sunscreen, insect repellent, bug bite cream, and medications such as painkillers and antihistamine.

- Linens, such as sheets, blankets and towels, pillows and sleeping bags.

- Chargers for all electronics.
- Water bottles.
- Firewood and fuel for outdoor cooking.
- Trash bags.
- Tools and other gear needed to maintain and perform



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small repairs on the RV.

- Camping chairs, shade tent.
- Flashlights and extra batteries, or a lantern and fuel/supplies.
- Can opener, bottle opener.
- Ice and a cooler.
- Water jugs/jerry cans.
- Sticks or forks for roasting

marshmallows or hot dogs.

- Ponchos or umbrellas.

TRIP-SPECIFIC SUPPLIES

This list will be more tailored to the activities you plan to undertake on your camping trip. It will be different for every trip and season.

- Hiking shoes.

- Beach gear.

- Life jackets.

- Games.

- Hats.

- Fishing rods and tackle.

- Maps, charts.

- Jackets, coats and warm socks.

- Bathing suits, sandals and beach towels.

Your packing list will likely evolve with each camping trip you make. You will find that some items aren't necessary while adding others to the list.

Always consult your list when you pack to be sure you have everything you need so you can relax and enjoy your trip.

Visit your Local Parks

You have to go far from home to go RVing. There likely are a handful of local destinations to explore, while also keeping your vacation and recreation dollars in your community.

While you'll likely want to hit the road to explore for much of the year, spending part of your camping time close to home can help make positive change in your community.

KEEPING YOUR MONEY LOCAL

In 2019, the RV Industry Association's RVs Move America Economic Impact Study found that RVing has a \$114 billion annual impact on the economy. It also found that RVing creates 600,000 jobs, which provide \$32 billion in wages paid, and contributes \$12 billion in federal, state and local taxes.

When you camp close to home, you're helping keep that money in your local community, providing jobs and driving tax revenue in your neighborhood.

Staying close to home also means you will be near your local RV mechanic and supplier, so if anything unexpected happens, you'll have a familiar face to call for help.



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WHERE TO GO

If you're lucky enough to have local parks with camping facilities, check them out this summer. If you have a favorite local hiking or fishing spot, why not camp nearby and explore local facilities?

According to Campendium.com, 32 states have national parks with RV camping sites

available. Many have ample recreational opportunities and even group activities to enjoy.

Also check out private RV parks. You'll find a sense of community and might meet other local RVers who frequent local parks.

BE A CARETAKER

Your community's natural

spaces are an important resource. When you're camping locally, don't forget to be a good steward of those resources.

The Outdoor Industry Association implores people to be caretakers. "Public lands and waters are the outdoor industry's basic infrastructure, and without them the indus-

try cannot survive," the organization writes in its 2017 report, "The Outdoor Recreation Economy." "Preserving access is imperative to enhancing the industry's economic and social impact. Access ensures every American's ability to get outside where jobs, health and communities grow."

Guide to RV Models

When you buy an RV and compare various models and trims, you will find yourself trying to decipher an alphabet soup.

There is a method to the madness, however. Here are some tips for breaking the code, and some common abbreviations you'll encounter.

RV CLASS

The first decision you will likely make is the class of RV you want. Here's a breakdown, according to RVShare.com.

Gas- or Diesel-Powered RVs

Class A: large, diesel or gas bus-shaped rigs 20-45 feet long that can sleep 8 to 10 passengers.

Class B: also known as a sleeper van, camper van or motorhome, a gas- or diesel-powered RV, typically 16 to 21 feet in length.

Class C: a motorhome built on a regular truck chassis, typically 21-41 feet long.

Towable RVs

Pop-up camper: compact RV that must be "unfolded" before use.

Travel trailer: a non-motorized RV available in various floor plans.

Toy hauler: a travel trailer with a "garage" feature to allow users to haul equipment such as

a snowmobile or ATV.

Fifth wheel: a large, non-motorized RV that attaches to a specialized in-bed truck tow hitch.

ABBREVIATIONS

In general, model names include acronyms for features of the RV. These typically represent details about the type of bed, bath and living areas in the RV.

Here are a few examples, though the list is not exhaustive, as there are differences in abbreviations used between different manufacturers:

FK: front kitchen.

RK: rear kitchen.

OK: outside kitchen.

SS: super slide, usually a slide that runs most of the length of the main living area.

DS: dinette slide.

BH: bunk house, usually one or two sets of bunk beds.

DB: double bunks.

TP: triple bunks.

Q or K: queen or king bed.

RB: rear bath.

FB: front bath.

RS: rear slide.

SLX, XLT, Xlite: a light-weight RV.

FK: front kitchen.

RL: rear living.

FL: front living.





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Stay Connected on the Road

With so many people working and learning remotely — and hitting the road in their RV to do it — it's never been more important to stay connected.

Modern technology provides ample opportunity for you to access the Internet from your RV. Here's what you need to know to keep in touch while you're traveling.

TYPES OF CONNECTION

Wi-fi: Most campgrounds that cater to RV living offer a wi-fi connection. These connections can be poor quality, however, and wi-fi is only available when you're in a fixed location. You can also turn to wi-fi connections

available in public places.

Satellite: If you're planning to travel far from the beaten path, satellite is a good option for connectivity. It will require some equipment to get started, and the investment can be substantial, topping \$1,000. You'll also need to pay a monthly access fee that is comparable to a home internet connection fee. Inclement weather may impeded the signal, meaning your access could be spotty.

Cellular: This kind of data connec-

tion can be affordable and doesn't require expensive equipment. You use your smartphone or a hotspot device to establish a secure wi-fi connection for your other devices. Speeds can rival home internet services, making it ideal for video calls and streaming video. Talk to your carrier about what equipment you will need. You also can buy a cellular antennae for less than \$100 to be sure you get the best signal.

TIPS AND TRICKS

With most of these options, there might be a limit on the data you can use, and your service may slow down considerably after you reach that limit.

If you'll be traveling for an extended

period of time — more than a month — consider pausing your home internet service in order to save money and get the best mobile data connection you can afford.

If you go with cellular data for your internet connection, check with your wireless carrier to see if there are discounts when you add a line. You could also compare various carriers' coverage maps and consider switching carriers to get access to the network with the best coverage in the area where you will be traveling.

Satellite receiver equipment can be heavy and add to your gross vehicle weight. Be sure you can spare the extra weight.

Save with an RV Vacation

Buying an RV is an investment. You're investing in future weekend trips and vacations your family can enjoy together with a bit more freedom than a hotel vacation.

Even after the cost of owning an RV is factored in, you still could be saving money on your vacations as compared to a hotel vacation.

THE DATA

A 2018 study commissioned by the RV Industry Association showed a cost savings of 21% to 64% for a party of four (two adults and two children), and 8% to 53% for a party of two adults, depending on factors such as the type of RV and type of vacation.

The study accounted for RV ownership and fuel costs, and showed savings across RV classes. Costs were compared for travel to nine popular vacation destinations for varying trip lengths.

In response to the study, RV Industry Association president Frank Hugelmeyer said, "The study reaffirms that RVs are a great way to save on family travel, and it's equally important to remember that RV ownership provides benefits that go well beyond affordability. To take an RV trip is to experience together-



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ness with family and friends, along with the flexibility to travel whenever and wherever you want."

THE SAVINGS

Travel costs can be significant, especially when air travel is involved, giving RV travel an advantage. Another benefit

RVers enjoy is the ability to buy and prepare their own food, rather than eating out at restaurants.

Even when fuel prices go up, the study found, RV travel is still at an advantage. Gas prices would have to reach \$13 per gallon before RV travel would lose its economic

advantage, the study showed.

IS IT FOR YOU?

If you're on the fence about buying an RV, consider whether you can devote some of your annual vacation budget toward the purchase. The catch, of course, is that you will need to follow through on

recouping some of the costs of the RV by using it for vacation. Consider planning the next couple of years' RV vacation before you buy the RV, to be sure it's the kind of vacation you want. Don't forget to factor in costs for maintenance, insurance and storage in your calculations.