

RV3D

THE OPEN ROAD

SPRING EDITION · WAKING UP THE ROAD AHEAD

Spring Wake-Up Checklist

Getting your rig out of winter mode and back on the road, properly.

New In The Toolbox

The free RV3D tools worth bookmarking before your next trip.

Where To Chase Spring

Wildflowers, whale calves and shoulder-season escapes, state by state.

CHASE THE SPRING AWAKENING

The days are stretching out, the wildflowers are starting their run down the west coast, and the whale calves are heading south with their mothers. Spring is the most forgiving season on the Australian road — mild enough to push further, quiet enough before the summer crowds arrive. This guide pulls together our best prep advice, our favourite tools, and a handful of places worth pointing the nose of your rig toward this season.



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PREPARE FOR THE THAW

If your rig has spent winter parked up, spring is the reset button. A little time spent now — on seals, batteries, tyres and the things that quietly wear out while a van sits still — pays off in every kilometre that follows.

SPRING WAKE-UP CHECKLIST



Give Your Rig a Proper Once-Over

Months sitting still are harder on a van than months on the road. Check every seal around windows, doors and hatches — winter condensation and expansion can open gaps that let dust and moisture in once you're moving again. Run your heating and cooling, check ventilation, and look for anything that's nested, cracked, or worked loose while parked.

Tyres, Brakes & Battery First

Tyres lose pressure sitting idle, and flat-spotting is common after a long stint parked. Before you hitch up:

- Check pressure and tread depth on every tyre, including the spare
- Inspect for cracking or flat spots from standing
- Test brakes gently before your first real drive
- Check battery health — a winter of low use is hard on batteries
- Test every light, including indicators and reversing lights

The Pest Check Nobody Skips Twice

Spring in Australia means spiders, wasps and the occasional mouse have had months undisturbed. Check gas lines, cupboards, wheel arches and any external vents before you rely on them — a wasp nest in a gas appliance vent is a genuinely common spring problem, not a rare one.

Clean Panels, Test Systems

Longer days mean more solar generation — but only if your panels are clean and angled well. Wipe them down, check your battery system is holding charge, and test your inverter and 12V accessories before you're relying on them at a remote site.

Gas, Water & Fresh Stock

Get gas bottles checked and connections tested. Flush water tanks and lines that have sat over winter before drinking from them. Swap out any pantry stock that's been sitting since last season, and restock the essentials you ran down over the cooler months.

TOP TIP

Do the full wake-up check a week before you actually plan to leave — not the night before. That gives you time to source a part or book a repair without blowing up your first trip of the season.

SPRING WAKE-UP, AT A GLANCE

- ✓ Seals, hatches and vents inspected
- ✓ Tyres, brakes and battery checked
- ✓ Gas lines and appliance vents pest-checked
- ✓ Solar panels cleaned, systems tested
- ✓ Water tanks and lines flushed
- ✓ Pantry and first-aid stock refreshed

NEW IN THE RV3D TOOLBOX

The RV3D Toolbox is our free, ad-free set of calculators and guides at rv3d.com.au/rv3d-toolbox — built for real trip planning, not lead generation. Seventeen tools live there now. Here are the top 5, straight off the site.

TOOLBOX SPOTLIGHT · #5 ON THE SITE

National Parks Directory

119 Australian parks with entry fees, accessibility flags and a favourites list — spring is peak national-park season, with wildflowers out and waterfalls running again almost everywhere. Shortlist parks by state and plan a route around the ones actually worth the detour, instead of guessing from a paper brochure at the visitor centre.



Off-Grid Power Planner

#1 on the site. Build your appliance list from presets or your own gear, then size the battery and solar you'd actually need.



Dash Light Guide

#2 on the site. Identifies what a dashboard warning light actually means, model by model — Sprinter, Ducato, Crafter and more.



Pre-Trip Photo Log

#3 on the site. Date-stamped before/after photos of your RV's condition and fit-out, ready if you ever need an insurance record.



Border & Quarantine Checker

#4 on the site. An interactive map of what can cross each state border, plus checkpoint locations — handy for a spring loop through several states.

Every tool is free, works offline once loaded, and asks for nothing.

rv3d.com.au/rv3d-toolbox

GEAR WE LOVE · FROM RV3D PRODUCT REVIEWS

KICKASS 50CM PORTABLE ELECTRIC BBQ — 1400W

A gas-free hotplate that packs down flat and cooks a full mixed meal at once — steak, veg and spuds side by side with no cold spots. Runs off mains power at the van, or off a portable power station or a 1500W+ inverter if you're set up for 12V.

RRP \$149.95 AUD · KickAss Products



Key Features

- 50cm non-stick ceramic hotplate, ultra-slim design
- 1400W rated power (1450W starting), 230-240V 50Hz
- NTC smart heat control across four presets: keep-warm (80°C), low (125-135°C), medium (165-180°C), high (200-220°C)
- One-touch capacitive controls, short-circuit and over-temperature protection
- 12V-compatible via a 1500W+ inverter or portable power station
- 2.92kg with Oxford fabric carry bag and silicone drip tray · 1 year limited warranty

RV Use Case

Sits flat on a fold-down annexe table or tailgate and plugs straight into a powered site — a genuine alternative to a gas BBQ when you want to cook a full plate at once without lugging a gas bottle. The flat non-stick plate also means no flare-ups to manage with everyone else's awnings a few metres away.

PROS

- Cooks a genuinely mixed plate at once — steak, pumpkin, potatoes, sweet potato and broccolini all came off evenly, no cold zones
- Heats up fast — ready to cook on in well under a minute
- Non-stick ceramic plate wiped clean with a cloth, no scrubbing
- Ultra-slim, packs into its own carry bag for van storage

CONS

- Mains-voltage design — off-grid without a 1500W+ inverter or power station, it stays in the cupboard

Best For

Caravanners and campers at powered sites who want a full, flat cooking surface without setting up a gas BBQ — or anyone running a decent inverter or power station who wants electric cooking off-grid.

VERDICT

Heated quickly, held a genuinely even surface temperature — an infrared thermometer read 210°C mid-cook — and cooked a full mixed plate without babysitting hot spots. Cleanup was the standout: a wipe with a cloth and the ceramic plate was done.



The ceramic plate, straight out of the box



Checking surface temperature — 187°C and climbing



A full mixed plate, cooked lakeside



Fresh out of the box, on the fold-down table

YOUR SPRING ROAD TRIP CHECKLIST



CLOTHING & COMFORT

Layer For A Swinging Thermometer

- ☐ Light layers for warm afternoons
- ☐ A warm layer for cold mornings and nights
- ☐ Rain jacket — spring storms roll in fast
- ☐ Sun hat and sunscreen (UV climbs quickly)
- ☐ Sturdy shoes for muddy trailheads

OUTDOOR LIVING

Set Up For Longer Evenings

- ☐ Insect repellent (spring wakes everything up)
- ☐ Camp chairs and an outdoor mat
- ☐ Extra shade cloth or awning walls
- ☐ Binoculars for wildflowers and wildlife

POWER & SYSTEMS

Make The Most Of Longer Days

- ☐ Clean, well-angled solar panels
- ☐ Extension leads and power boards
- ☐ Torch and spare batteries

CAMP KITCHEN

Fresh, Simple Meals

- ☐ Cool bag for fresh produce and dairy
- ☐ Insulated mugs and a stovetop kettle
- ☐ Sharp knife and a decent chopping board
- ☐ Airtight containers for dry goods

WET WEATHER GEAR

Spring Storms Arrive Without Warning

- ☐ Waterproof jackets for everyone
- ☐ Quick-dry towels
- ☐ Doormat for muddy shoes
- ☐ Indoor games for a rained-out afternoon

At A Glance

- ✓ Layered clothing for variable days
- ✓ Rain gear packed and accessible
- ✓ Insect repellent and sun protection
- ✓ Solar and power systems checked
- ✓ Fresh food storage sorted

WHERE TO CHASE SPRING

Wildflowers running down the west coast, whale calves heading south with their mothers, and the shoulder-season quiet before summer crowds arrive. Spring rewards travellers who go early.

SPRING, STATE BY STATE



Western Australia

The wildflower run, coast to inland

WA's wildflower season peaks through September and October, from Kalbarri and Coalseam Conservation Park to the Wildflower Way inland. Everlastings carpet the ground in reds, whites and pinks against red dirt — a sight that's genuinely hard to overstate.



New South Wales

Whale calves and country wine towns

The northbound humpback migration turns south again in spring, with mothers and calves visible from headlands along the coast. Inland, the Southern Highlands and Hunter Valley shift into blossom season, with mild days made for cellar-door stops.



Victoria

Alpine wildflowers and green high country

The High Country around Bright and Mount Beauty turns green again after winter, with alpine wildflowers appearing on the higher trails as snow retreats. The Great Ocean Road is at its calmest — fewer crowds, softer light, still-dramatic swells.



South Australia

Flinders Ranges and mild wine country

The Flinders Ranges are genuinely at their best in spring — wildflowers after winter rain, comfortable hiking temperatures, and none of summer's heat risk. The Barossa and Clare Valleys offer the same cellar-door warmth with none of the crowds.

SPRING, STATE BY STATE — continued



Queensland

The last of the whale season, dry and clear

Hervey Bay's whale season runs into October, giving spring travellers a last chance before the humpbacks head south. Inland and up north, the dry season lingers, keeping outback towns and the Tropical North comfortable before the wet returns.



Northern Territory

The last of the dry season

September holds the tail end of the NT's dry season — Kakadu and Litchfield are still fully accessible, with waterholes and falls flowing before the build-up starts. Go early in spring here; conditions turn quickly once the wet approaches.



Australian Capital Territory

Floriade and blossom season

Canberra's own spring flower festival, Floriade, fills Commonwealth Park with over a million blooms through September and October. The city's blossom-lined streets are at their best, and Namadgi National Park offers mild bushwalking with the Snowy Mountains still visible nearby.



Tasmania

Waterfalls, wildlife and quiet trails

Spring brings Tasmania's waterfalls to full flow after winter rain, with wallabies and echidnas more active across the East Coast and Central Highlands. Cradle Mountain and Freycinet are at their greenest, and the shoulder season means walking tracks and beaches without the summer queues.

CUSTOM PARTS, MADE FOR YOUR RIG

Every RV is a little different, and off-the-shelf parts don't always fit. RV3D designs and 3D-prints custom parts and accessories to your exact make and model — here's how an order comes together.



1

Browse or ask

Check the shop at rv3d.com.au/shop for an existing design that matches your van, or send through what you need if nothing quite fits yet.

2

Tell us your rig

Share your RV's make, model and year, along with photos or measurements of the space the part needs to fit. The more detail here, the fewer back-and-forths later.

3

Get a design and a quote

We put together a design suited to your van and confirm price and turnaround before anything goes into production.

4

Printed and shipped

Your part is printed in durable, Australian-conditions-tested material and shipped straight to your door, ready to fit.

Start a custom part enquiry

rv3d.com.au/shop

SPRING CAMP KITCHEN

Longer evenings and milder nights mean more cooking outside and less hovering over a stovetop. Two easy ones for the season.



LEMON & HERB CHICKEN TRAYBAKE

One pan, minimal clean-up, and it tastes like it took more effort than it did.

INGREDIENTS

- 6 chicken thighs, skin on
- 500g baby potatoes, halved
- 2 lemons, one sliced, one juiced
- 3 cloves garlic, crushed
- Handful fresh rosemary or thyme
- Olive oil, salt and pepper

METHOD

Toss potatoes in oil, salt and half the garlic, spread in a camp oven or tray. Nestle chicken thighs skin-side up among them, scatter lemon slices and herbs, drizzle with lemon juice and remaining garlic. Cook over coals or on a covered stovetop pan for 35–40 minutes until the chicken skin is golden and potatoes are tender.

RV3D TIP

Do the prep at home the night before and keep it in one container — it turns this into a five-minute job at camp.



SPRING VEG & HALOUMI SKEWERS

Quick, mostly hands-off, and good for however many people show up.

INGREDIENTS

- 250g haloumi, cubed
- 1 zucchini, sliced thick
- 1 capsicum, chunked
- 1 red onion, chunked
- Cherry tomatoes
- Olive oil, lemon juice, dried oregano

METHOD

Thread haloumi and vegetables onto skewers, alternating for colour. Brush with olive oil and a squeeze of lemon, sprinkle with oregano. Cook over the fire or on a grill plate for 3–4 minutes a side until the haloumi is golden and the vegetables have a bit of char.

RV3D TIP

If using wooden skewers, soak them in water for 20 minutes first — one less thing to worry about over an open flame.

YOUR GREAT SPRING ESCAPE

Custom 3D-printed parts and accessories, free trip-planning tools, and honest gear reviews — built by a small Australian team that actually spends time on the road. Wherever spring takes you, we're glad to be part of the kit list.

RV3D

CUSTOM PARTS · FREE TOOLS · HONEST REVIEWS

FOLLOW THE JOURNEY



YouTube
The Aussie Motorhome & RV Show

Powered by RV3D — the channel hub for the Australian motorhome, caravan and RV community. Product reviews, DIY fixes, and behind-the-scenes 3D-printing insight for Jayco, Avida, Winnebago and more.



Podcast
On Spotify

The Aussie Motorhome & RV Show: Powered by RV3D — daily-style briefings for life on the open road, with maintenance tips, industry news and honest advice. No fluff.



Facebook
RV3D

The RV3D community hub — build updates, new part releases and conversation with other owners doing the same modifications to their own rigs.



Instagram
[@rv3d.printed.solutions](https://www.instagram.com/rv3d.printed.solutions)

The visual side of RV3D — custom prints in progress, finished parts fitted to real rigs, and the odd workshop moment in between.

Tag us in your spring trip — we love seeing where RV3D ends up.

rv3d.com.au