



90th INTERNATIONAL F.I.C.C. RALLY 2020 IN OSTIA/ROME (ITALY)

Camping/Caravanning/Motorcaravanning

Every year it is the same routine

Whether your caravan is left outside or under some sort of cover, wintertime can be problematic. If you want next season to get off to a good start, then you need to follow this 10-point plan.

1. Check whether a technical inspection, gas or general service is due and also check on the leak detection test: a must in new vehicles for the guarantee to remain valid.
2. First of all clean the caravan thoroughly inside and out. For the outside it is worth going to a Cleanpark facility where a high pressure jet – go gently on the bodywork seals – and shampoo work very well. For the inside, wipe over all surfaces with a damp cloth, shake out and vacuum cushions and soft furnishings.
3. One automatically checks that the side marker lights, flashing distress lights, brake and reversing lights are in working order before setting out on any journey, but this is all the more necessary after overwintering. If you come across any scratches in the paintwork, has the seal beneath been damaged?
4. Is the coachwork in good shape? Varnished aluminium can lose its gloss. Cleaning and waxing is tiresome but it has to be done every other year if you want your vehicle to stay looking smart. Use a cleaning product to keep the weather strip on doors and windows supple, use a graphite spray on locks and grease hinges. Check the drawbar mounting. Open up the vents in the gas bottle locker.
5. Check the tread on tyres and tyre pressure. A rough ride could mean either overloading, an uneven road surface or wrong tyre pressure. Tyres that are over six years old must be replaced for speeds of 100 km/h. Check that the wheel nuts are tight.

6. Chassis: grease the screws of the brace operated leg, check the support wheel and adjust if necessary. Check the mechanical stabilizing function. Change worn friction pads but, if they are in working order, clean with spirit or brake cleaner and similarly clean the coupling ball on the towing vehicle.
7. Thoroughly clean and disinfect the fresh water tank and pipes. Check that the pump and all of the taps work. Also check that the heating and hot water system is in working order.
8. If you have an absorber fridge, check the three operating functions – clean the gas burner. Check the safety pilot on the gas appliance and extinguish the gas flame. Gas should stop flowing after 30 seconds at most. Clean the sink drain and wastepipe.
9. Shower & WC: use special cleaner on the sealing and sliding door then treat with silicon spray. Never use vaseline or clean the sealing with vinegar as these products are harmful.
10. Energy check: recharge the battery, turn off the electricity supply. Switch on the system that you use in the evenings. Check regularly to see if the battery power is declining or whether it may even be flat. Check that your gas bottles are full by simply weighing them.

Source: Camping, Cars & Caravans

