

Space Planning Exercise

Answer the following questions to learn more about what you currently like and dislike about your RV. This can be based on function or aesthetics and can help you narrow down what changes may be necessary to the layout, flow, or design.

What do I like about this space? What currently works?

I know this may be difficult when you're blinded by funky valences, dirty carpet, or outdated floral wallpaper, but think back to why you bought the RV in the first place. Maybe it's the layout or the natural light? Try to write down what, if anything, is currently working. I find it's best to start in a place of appreciation. For example, we love the windows in our RV, especially those in the hallway because they provide an abundance of natural light.

What do I dislike?

If yours looks like ours did, you might have a long list. If you've already made some updates and are planning a refresh, your list may be smaller. While it may be easy to remove décor in a home, most items are stapled, glued, or bolted down inside an RV. Scan the room and make a mental note of every single item in the space. Then make a list of every single thing you want to replace.

Even if something is useful, can it be replaced with something more functional, meaningful, or beautiful? By elevating your essentials, especially anything that's on display, you'll create a space that makes you happy wherever you look. Unless you have an unlimited cash supply, you'll probably need to update or replace items as budget and time permits. However, creating a list now of everything you want to change will help you find clarity with priorities later.

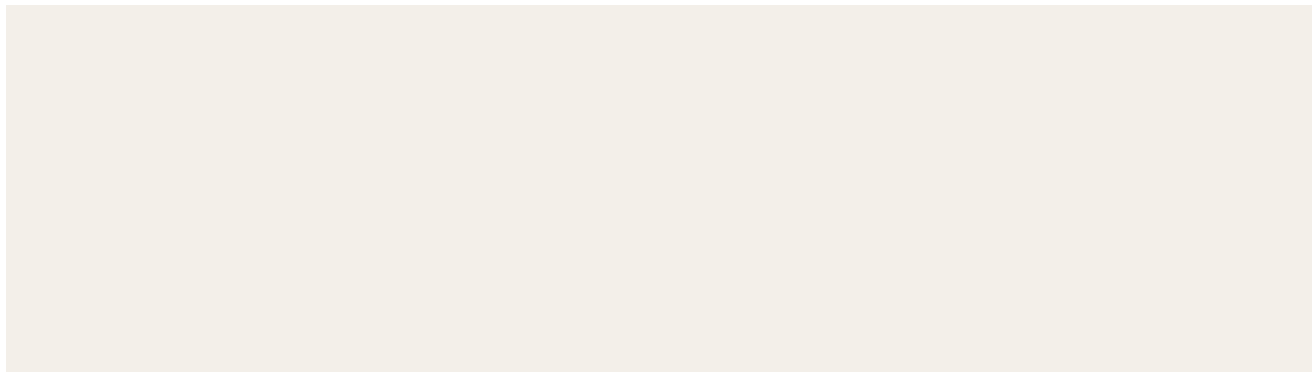
Who will be using the space, and what activities will take place? How could it function better?

Homes, even tiny ones, are meant to be lived in. Think about who will be using each space and how. I recommend breaking each area into zones based on the activities that will be taking place.

You may also want to consider your current home and answer the same questions. Maybe there's something that's not working in your existing space you don't want to replicate, or maybe there's something you love that you do want to try and recreate. When you become aware of these details, you can either avoid or implement something similar into your RV.

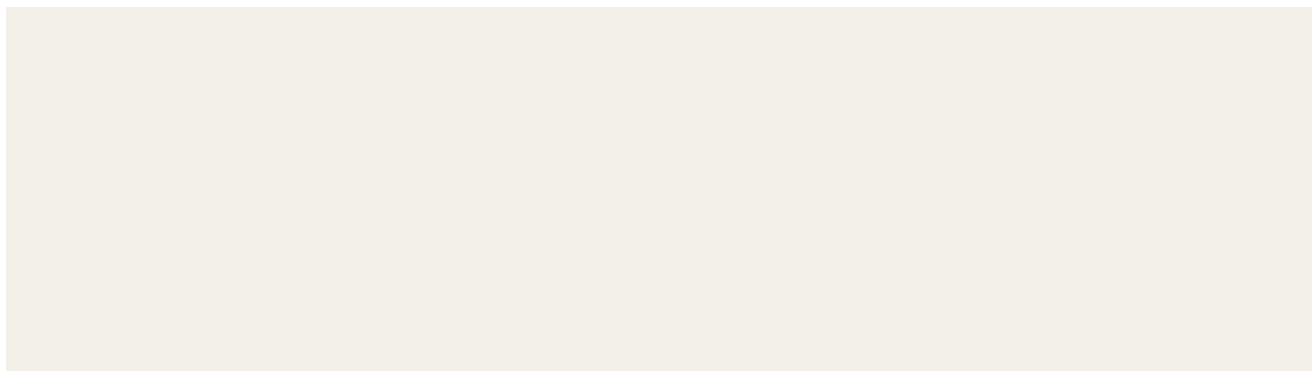
With space limited, chances are you'll need most areas to serve more than one purpose, so keep this in mind as you scan each room. For example, do you need space to snuggle up and watch movies in the living room, a table to gather around for meals, a cozy nook to read, a dedicated spot to meditate, play games, work, entertain, exercise, or do homework? Do you need flexible seating to help foster connection and interaction? Will there be kids or pets?

Look back on the values you wrote down during the reflection exercise and see if there is a way to incorporate any of them into your RV. Often, the frustration we feel from our home relates to function, flow, or maintenance and can usually be remedied through simple solutions or problem-solving.



Do I have any hobbies, passions, or collections to consider? Is there anything about my current or ideal lifestyle I want to incorporate?

Maybe it's crafting supplies, books, essential oils, music, photography, or outdoor gear. While you may be transitioning to a smaller space, that doesn't mean you have to give up what you love most or want to bring into your future. You just need to prioritize what that means to you. If it makes you happy, make space for it. Jotting this information down will also help you understand how much storage you need.

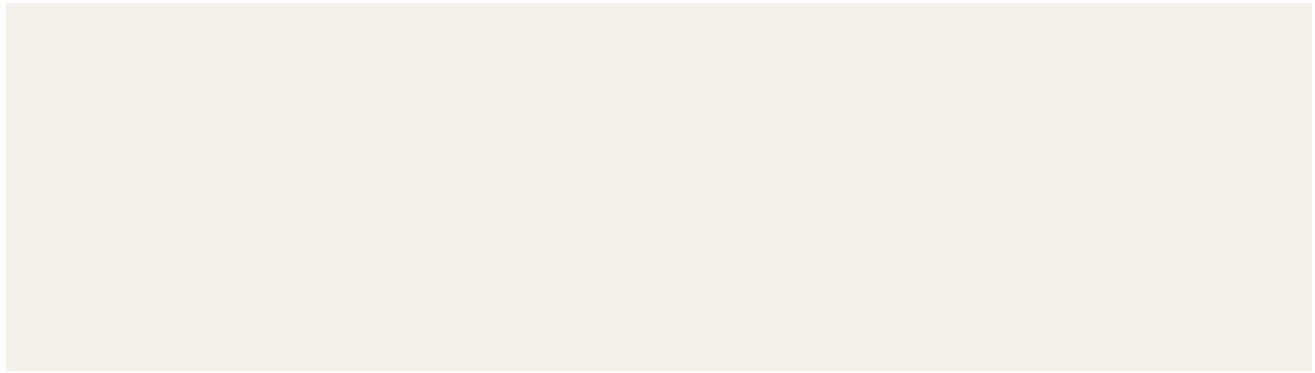


What furniture do I need? Do I have any existing furniture I want to include?

Chances are, your RV already has built-in furniture, but that doesn't mean you need to keep it. My favorite RV interiors are those that include residential furniture. You'd be amazed how much an RV feels like home when you include furniture made for a house rather than an RV. Even so, you may plan to keep what you have or reupholster it.

Otherwise, create a list of the furniture you will need for each space, including any existing furniture you can use. You may be able to swap out the outdated sofa for one you already own or replace the dinette booth with your dining table. Modifications may be necessary to make items work, but depending on the situation and how meaningful a piece is, it could be worth it.

We custom-built most of our RV furniture, including our media cabinet, sofa, and dining table, but we brought in an old dining chair for the desk in our bedroom.



What existing décor or essential items can I use or repurpose?

Do you have any existing décor, such as artwork, curtains, rugs, or bedding you want to bring into the RV? What about cooking appliances, utensils or dishes? Be sure to add it to your list! Try to stick to useful or meaningful items you enjoy. Why bring in a ton of clutter or incorporate items you don't need or particularly like?

We still have décor in our RV we brought from our previous home, such as wood frames, baskets, throw blankets, and planters. By using what we had on hand, we were able to splurge in other areas as needed.

