

*Use this checklist before transferring any money. Print it out and bring it to the inspection.*

**■ Legal & Paperwork****■ WOF valid and expiry date checked**

*Check the windscreen sticker. Note when it expires — you may owe a renewal soon.*

**■ Rego (registration) current**

*Verify at [nzta.govt.nz](https://nzta.govt.nz) using the plate number.*

**■ RUC up to date — diesel vehicles only**

*Check odometer vs. RUC distance purchased. Verify at [nzta.govt.nz](https://nzta.govt.nz).*

**■ PPSR check completed**

*Search at [ppsr.govt.nz](https://ppsr.govt.nz) using the VIN. Costs ~\$3. Non-negotiable.*

**■ Ownership transfer confirmed (NZTA)**

*Both buyer and seller must complete the change of ownership at [nzta.govt.nz](https://nzta.govt.nz) within 7 days.*

**■ VIN matches all documents**

*Compare VIN on the dash, door jamb, engine bay, and title documents. All must match.*

## ■ Mechanical Condition

### ■ Full service history available

*Ask for a logbook or receipts. Gaps in history are a yellow flag.*

### ■ Cambelt / timing belt replacement confirmed

*Critical for many diesel engines. Ask when it was last done and at what km.*

### ■ No visible rust — especially underbody and around windows

*Bring a torch. Check wheel arches, sills, and floor. Surface rust differs from structural rust.*

### ■ Cooling system checked

*Look for white residue around hoses, inspect coolant colour, check for leaks.*

### ■ No oil leaks under the vehicle

*Park on a clean surface and check underneath before and after the test drive.*

### ■ Cold start test — engine starts smoothly

*Ask to see the van started from cold. Difficult cold starts reveal hidden issues.*

### ■ No overheating during test drive

*Watch the temperature gauge throughout. Pull over and walk away if it climbs.*

### ■ Transmission shifts smoothly

*Test all gears including reverse. Hesitation or clunking is a red flag.*

### ■ Suspension and steering feel stable

*Drive over a speed bump. Listen for clunks. Check for pulling to one side.*

### ■ Tyres — good tread depth and even wear

*Uneven wear indicates alignment or suspension issues. Four new tyres cost \$600–\$1000+.*

## ■ Camper Setup & Living System

### ■ Self-contained certificate valid

*Find the blue NZMCA sticker. Check expiry date. Verify certificate number on [nzmca.org.nz](http://nzmca.org.nz).*

### ■ Fixed toilet present and compliant

*Must be fixed to the vehicle — not a portable camping toilet.*

### ■ Fixed sink present and drains correctly

*Run water through it. Check under the cabinet for leaks.*

### ■ Fresh water tank — condition and capacity

*Ask when it was last cleaned. Check for cracks or odour.*

### ■ Grey water tank — condition and no leaks

*Check underneath for staining or drips.*

### ■ Solar system functioning

*Test during inspection. Ask for the panel wattage and controller brand.*

### ■ Leisure battery — health and age

*Ask how old the battery is. A healthy battery should hold charge overnight.*

### ■ All 12V lights and electrical outlets working

*Test every switch, USB port, and 12V socket.*

### ■ Gas system certified (if applicable)

*Look for a gas compliance certificate. Uncertified gas systems are a safety risk.*

### ■ No water leaks inside cabinetry or ceiling

*Check after rain if possible. Feel the ceiling, around windows, and inside cupboards.*

## ■ Red Flags — Walk Away If You See These

### ■ Seller refuses independent inspection

*A good van can withstand scrutiny. Refusal to allow a mechanic is a serious warning sign.*

### ■ Seller pushes for immediate payment

*High pressure on timeline exists to prevent you from doing your due diligence.*

### ■ VIN numbers don't match across documents

*This may indicate the vehicle has been in an accident, reregistered, or is stolen.*

### ■ WOF expired recently with 'just cosmetic' issues

*'Minor' WOF fails can be expensive. Get the inspection sheet and verify costs.*

### ■ Rust explained away as 'just surface'

*Surface rust is manageable. Structural rust is not. Have it assessed by a panel beater.*

### ■ Missing or incomplete paperwork

*Legitimate sellers have documentation. Gaps are rarely coincidental.*