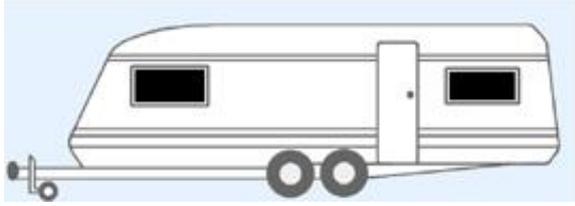


Northern Towing Services



*If there's a hitch
we can pull it*

Starting out the new caravanning season

Even you've had your caravan serviced and well looked after during the winter, there are still some extra checks you should make before starting the new season. These are, in no particular order:

- Open all windows to air your caravan
- Switch on your gas supply and ensure there is no smell of gas
- Turn on main 12V switch and check the battery voltage on the meter. A fully-charged battery will read 12.7V and if showing less than 12V it is best to charge it with a battery charger
- Make sure all 12V internal systems are working
- Connect to the car via the 12N or 13-pin plug and ensure all road lights are operating correctly
- Also check your caravan leisure battery. Although it will charge from your car when it is towed, it really cannot be relied upon to have sustainable power after just a few hours on the road
- Close drain down valves and taps and refill and sterilise the water system according to instructions in handbook
- Replace your water filter, but only after sterilising the system
- Check for any water leaks, especially if you find any water stains
- Check road light lenses for water ingress, which can short out the lamp
- Test the smoke alarm
- Check handbrake operation by applying and releasing
- Check for cracks or other deterioration in wheels
- Check and adjust the tyres to the correct pressure
- Use a torque wrench to check wheel nuts are tightened to the manufacturer's recommended settings
- Remove fridge vent covers if the temperature is above 10C
- Check all vents for leaves and debris
- Then before Northern Towing Services arrive to tow your caravan, close all your windows

It is worth mentioning that, before you connect your caravan to a 230V electricity supply, check the cable, plugs and sockets to ensure they are not damaged and check the RCD test button works before you switch on any device.

If you have been using your caravan during the winter period, most of this will have already been done, but it is always a good idea to run through a few checks each time you take it out again, even if it has only been decommissioned for a short time.

Remember, your caravan represents a very substantial investment, and like anything, if you neglect it, it will decay. Also, as equipment for caravans becomes more sophisticated, the DIY element

shrinks - however, this doesn't mean that new technology and innovation does not need looking after and checking regularly.

If you are a DIY person, take care. If something goes wrong or then doesn't work at all, it may cost you more in the long run than if you'd called in the expert in the first place!