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## THE IMPORTANCE OF A GOOD SHAKEDOWN TEST...

Firstly, what is a shakedown test??? A shakedown test is a series of 2-3 short trips performed close to home so that you can test out all the systems & inclusions of your new camper and iron out any issues that may present. A shakedown test is not simply picking up a brand-new camper and driving it through some of the harshest environments known to man.

Now this may sound a bit odd but, think of it like buying a new TV. You are not going to buy a new tv only to put it in the cupboard and collect dust. The first thing you do when you get it home is read the manual, hook it up, test all the channels and features and ultimately make sure you have no issues. Although a lot bigger, the testing of a camper should be the same.

Fellas - we all know that we hate to ask questions and read manuals, but it is important. As a company we see a notable difference between customers who have performed a good shakedown test in the first 6-8 weeks of ownership versus those who do not.

A shakedown test whereby you use ALL of the campers features systems is Vital. Pressure test the plumbing, load test the electrical components, set up the annexe, light the HWS system, cook meals, do the doors & latches open/close/lock etc etc etc. This will help you get an understanding of the rig and give you the confidence to go further.

Referring to the TV analogy, imagine ringing Harvey Norman after 6 months of ownership and saying that the remote control for our TV was missing and that this is the first time you have 'ever' used it. Same thing applies for us as the manufacturer.

As a company we have a series of checklists whereby our staff diligently go over all of the components in your camper. Whilst all care is taken and quality testing is done throughout the manufacturing and delivery process, some systems must be used in the "real world" to be truly tested.

Now there would not be a company in the world who can say that they get it right 100% of the time. Our campers are built by real people so a tolerance for the "human element" comes into play.

Over the years I have seen some things and learnt some very handy tips which I am all too happy to pass onto customers – don't store an unprotected bottle of red wine in the top cupboard of a caravan is one of these tips!!!

Take your time, set EVERYTHING UP, enjoy the camper and if there is an issue, feel free to pick up the phone and give us a call. Our team are always available for a chat and to help you out.

See you out there...

*Adam Mathieson*