

Ultimate Camping with Rain Checklist

Outdoor enthusiasts, minimalists, and digital nomads are all fans of the van life trend. Due to its rising popularity, knowing where to start or what's involved can sometimes take time and effort. You can start working if you follow this van build must-haves checklist!

BASIC VAN BUILD TOOLS

- Tape Measure
- Drill
- Utility Knife
- Straight Edge
- Skilsaw
- Hole Saw Kit
- Kreg Jig
- Brad Nailer

BASIC VAN BUILD MUST-HAVES

- Ventilation
- Insulation
- Ceiling
- Walls
- Floor

VAN BUILD ELECTRICAL SYSTEM

- Jackery solar power system
- AGM battery & 12V system
- Lighting

- Cooler/Heater Power
- Battery Bank
- Monitoring

VAN BUILD WATER SYSTEM

- Fresh Water Tank
- Grey/Black Water Tank
- Sink
- Hot Water
- Plumbing Hardware

VAN BUILD KITCHEN SYSTEM

- Propane System
- Cooktop
- Paper Towel Rack
- Sink
- Mini Fridge
- Coffee Maker
- Plate, Bowl, and Cooking Stuffs

VAN BUILD INTERIOR SYSTEM

- Bedding: Bed, Bag, Pillow, Quilt
- Toilet
- Storage: Bedroom, Garage, Overhead
- Workspace

VAN BUILD EXTERIOR SYSTEM

- Sliding
- Rear doors
- Awning
- Exterior Shower
- Bike Wash

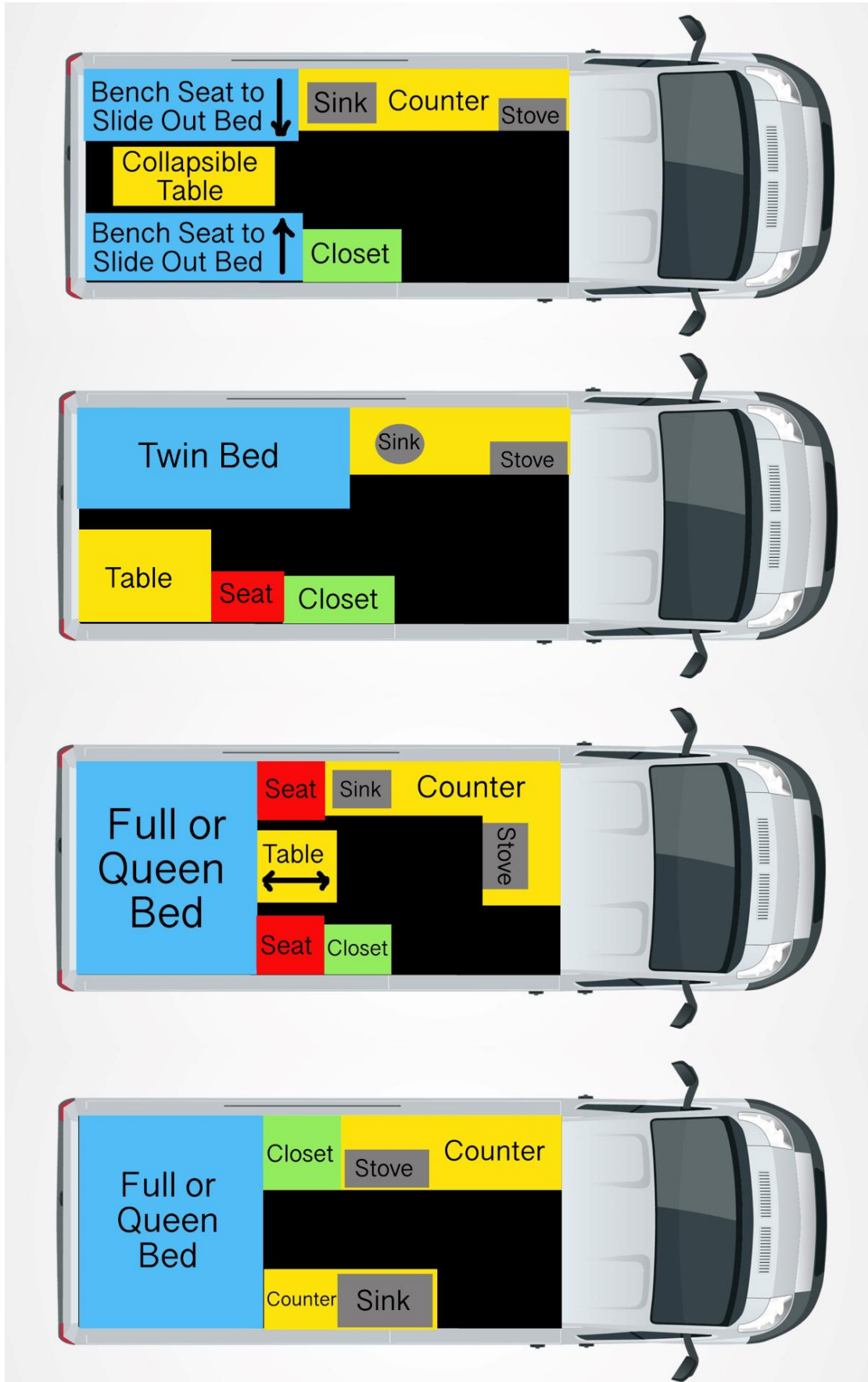
STEP-BY-STEP VAN BUILD GUIDE

Configuring your van to accommodate everything in such a compact space can feel like a riddle, but it's all part of the joy of a DIY van build. If you follow this step-by-step instruction manual, building a van will be as simple as possible.

Step 1: Plan Your Camper Van Layout

It would be best if you had a clear grasp of what you want from your van build before you can start seriously designing it. It is different than the goal of planning your van layout to complete your entire project at once. The list's purpose is to help you visualize the effort necessary and provide inspiration to start.

It doesn't have to be a masterpiece as long as you grasp what those strange squiggles and squares imply. If you and your partner are in a van, you should each sketch out some ideas individually before comparing them to see what you have in common and where you would need to make some concessions. While there are countless design options, these standard floor plans for typical van layouts might help you get started.



Step 2: Van Build Insulation

The types of materials used for insulation are incredibly diverse. Your budget and the kind of weather you'll be traveling in are two important considerations when choosing the type and thickness of insulation for your camper van. Quality insulation is a wise investment if you want to use your camper van in bitterly cold climates.

It would help if you covered the floors of your camper van with insulation boards and then covered those insulation boards with plywood to insulate them. You can use expanding foam as a fixed or glue to attach the insulation boards. Although the expanding set dries significantly faster, glue is slightly neater.

Step 3: Walls, Ceiling, and Floor

Given that you can generally work with straight lines and avoid cutting furniture around, it is considerably simpler to lay the floor and walls before building all of your campervan's furniture. You can select from three primary varieties of flooring: hardwood, vinyl, and cork. Cork flooring is the most environmentally friendly and safe alternative for camper van flooring.

Step 4: Van Build Electrical System

One of the most challenging parts of the process is designing the solar and electrical system, where you'll need to do the most research. In the end, you must determine the size of the system required to accommodate your daily usage. It's time to buy the essential parts of your campervan's electrical system, such as a **power bank**¹, charger, **solar generator**², fuse box, and more, after determining how much power you need.

If you need a straightforward electrical system and want to charge your gadgets anywhere,

¹ Power bank: <https://www.jackery.com/blogs/news/what-is-a-power-bank>

² Solar generator: <https://www.jackery.com/blogs/news/best-solar-generators-for-off-grid-living>

the **Jackery solar generator**³ is the ideal option. I advise everyone who intends to go camping, work outside frequently, or go car camping to do this. Utilizing the **Jackery portable solar panels**⁴ will allow you to recharge this battery. The solar panel is fantastic because it folds up extremely little and is portable to the fullest extent. As a backup system, you can use a battery and solar panels. This is the best option if you only require a little electricity and are concerned about installing a whole solar and electrical system with wiring and all the extra parts.

Step 5: Van Build Water System

Like electricity, you should consider how much water you'll use in your camper van before installing the water system. Several significant variables, such as the shower in your vehicle, will determine how much water you use. In your car, how many people will there be? Choose a larger water tank if you anticipate using much water in the camper van.

Utilizing a filter system that can reuse shower water is another alternative for your water system. This shower system uses a 3.5-gallon water tank designated for the shower to function. Before returning through the faucet, the water circulates through five different filtration stations after reaching the drain.

Step 6: Van Build Kitchen System

Your camper van's heating system and kitchen are both powered by gas! Installing a refillable LPG canister inside the van, either underslung or in a sealed compartment, is one of the most common solutions. The LPG is inexpensive and simple to replenish. The gas must be connected to your appliances with copper pipes to be used.

The kitchen will see a lot of use from those who want to cook inside their vehicle. Van kitchens frequently have a sink, faucet, refrigerator, towel, and other appliances, just like a

³ Jackery solar generator: <https://www.jackery.com/pages/solar-generator>

⁴ Jackery portable solar panels: <https://www.jackery.com/pages/solar-panels>

typical house kitchen. Your life will be more vibrant if your camper van kitchen is well-equipped.

Step 7: Van Decoration & Final Touches

This one is one of the most enjoyable steps in turning a vehicle into a camper. It's time to transform this van into a house now that all the hard labor has been finished. Ultimately, the finishing touches and décor tie a DIY van build together and give it its own identity. There are numerous methods to transform your van into a house, such as installing a lovely tile backsplash in the kitchen and utilizing vibrant materials and upholstery.

Top Mistakes to Avoid in Van Build

Numerous considerations must be taken once your camper van build gets underway. First and foremost, two factors that will be in your thoughts are the aesthetic and floor plan. These factors are significant, especially the floor plan. A van build, however, can be made or broken by several factors that might need to be noticed.

- 1. Check your van before purchasing:** Many van builders start with the best intentions only to run into issues with the base vehicle. Although it shouldn't be, buying a van can be the trickiest portion of the van project.
- 2. Consider where to place your water system:** Many people claim that the van's corner is wasted space and that there is only so much more you can put there than storage. Some mobile homes offer the option of external water supply filling.
- 3. Add circulation fans:** It's a common misperception that roof fans are only used to cool the van's interior. While breathing in some cold, fresh air on a cool evening can be pleasant, fans have a more crucial function.

ABOUT JACKERY

Jackery is the world's leading portable power solutions provider. We design, develop and manufacture portable power products for phones, laptops, cameras, drones, and more. We are dedicated to providing our customers with sustainable and reliable power solutions. Our products are designed to be safe, easy to use, and environmentally friendly. With over 100 patents and industry-leading technology, we constantly innovate to bring you the best portable power solutions. Jackery products are available in over 100 countries and have been recognized by Forbes, Time, GQ, Esquire, and more.

