

A Guide to Trailer Plugs: Towing & Charging Solutions



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Keeping Warm in the Caravan this Winter

Campfires, marshmallows, a nice warm cuppa, there is just something about camping in Winter that adds another level to the experience. But when you have to leave the warmth of the campfire, and head back to the caravan or camper trailer what's the best way to keep warm?

Thankfully, there are a few options to keep your caravan cosy in the winter months. Some caravans come with some sort of heating as part of the fit-out, however, this may not suit your needs. You might need something more energy efficient or something to heat a larger area. Let's take a look at some of the options available for caravan heating.

Powered Caravan Heating:

Diesel-powered heating: This option is relatively cost-effective if you have a large area to heat or spend a lot of time in cooler climates. These heaters do tend to be quite noisy to operate though. Any diesel-powered heater, mounted or portable, must operate outside the vehicle with the hot air ducted inside. If you are in a caravan park, you may also need to check that the heaters are permitted prior to use.

Gas-powered heating: These heaters are usually quiet but can be expensive. Also, there is a risk that the gas might run out if you're stuck somewhere in cold wet weather. Gas-powered options also require ventilation for safe use in your caravan.

Electric heating: This option is usually only the best option when

staying in a caravan park (unless you have a big enough battery system) as most heating devices will chew through power quite quickly. Under-floor heating is another alternative way to use electricity. It can be built in or can be added as a membrane under a floor mat.

Combination gas/electric heaters: This is a great alternative as it will allow you to save on gas when electricity is available and vice versa. If you are planning a big trip this might be a good option as it allows you to change between the power source as needed.

Space heaters: These can use diesel, gas, electricity or a combination. With these systems, air is drawn from the interior of the van through one vent, passed across the heating unit then returned through another vent. They come in a range of types and sizes so there is usually one to suit most applications.

Non-powered solutions:

If you want to save on energy consumption or don't have the option of power when you are camping there are some other steps you can take to keep cosy in the cooler months.

- Insulation is one of your best options to keep the cold out and the warmth in. Floor rugs and tight-fitting window and door seals will reduce the amount of heat that escapes from the caravan.

- Make the most of the warmth created during the day by fitting

your caravan with thick curtains that you can draw closed at sunset to trap heat inside.

- Cooking dinner inside also helps to create extra warmth inside on those chilly nights. Just make sure there is still adequate ventilation when cooking, especially if using a gas cooktop.
- Invest in some thick woollen blankets. Team these up with a sheepskin mattress topper under your sheets or a heat retaining membrane or space blanket under your mattress, you will stay nice and cosy through the night.
- Swap out your air mattress for a foam or self-inflating mattress. These are better at retaining the heat created by your body rather than drawing it away as air mattresses do.
- Make sure you pack a warm jacket, gloves, beanie and thick socks to help retain body heat. If you are heading somewhere extra chilly, thermals are the best option for keeping warm.

Stay Safe

Regardless of which option you choose, ensure you are always using your equipment as specified by the manufacturer. Heaters can be dangerous if not used correctly and should not be left unattended at any time.

Always ensure that you have smoke and carbon monoxide alarms fitted in your caravan and have a fire extinguisher or fire blanket on hand if needed.

Hope our tips help you stay warm on the road this Winter.

Briohny De Vere

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