

Storage Hacks to Find More Space in Your Camper Trailer



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Confused About What Trailer Plugs You Need For Towing Or Charging?

Some of the most common questions we get asked as auto electricians are, what the different types of trailer plugs are, and what each one is used for. The most common options for trailer plugs are the seven pin, twelve pin, and also the Anderson plug. They're called five, seven, and twelve pin plugs because they connect five, seven, or twelve wires on your car to your caravan or trailer. For example, if you turn the indicator on in your car, the first pin connects the signal in the car to the trailer indicator and makes the trailer indicator work. Now to take a look at each of the plugs.

7 Pin Trailer Plugs
The seven pin trailer plug, comes in either flat or round. In the round, you can also get a big size, or a small size. Usually the big is used on trucks or heavy machinery because these vehicles have a lot more lights and require more power to be fed through the plug.

The seven pin connects the left-hand indicator, the right-hand indicator, a return to earth, your brake lights, and your taillights, including clearance and sidelights, plus reverse lights, and electronic brakes. We prefer using the flat over the round because in our experience, the wiring is more likely to get damaged

in the round. Also, you can plug a seven pin flat into a twelve pin flat, making it more versatile. On the tow vehicle, our preference is to mount a twelve pin flat. If you tow a trailer or caravan that has either a 7 pin flat or twelve pin flat, both of these can plug into the twelve pin on your car.

12 Pin Trailer Plugs
On the 12 Pin plugs you get everything that you connected on the five and seven, plus you now have five extra pins to wire up various accessories. This could include:
• A fridge ignition feed to power the fridge in your caravan or trailer while you're driving.
• A breakaway battery monitor. This allows the voltage of the battery on your breakaway unit to be displayed on the dash of your vehicle.
• ESC, which is Electronic Stability Control, if your caravan has it.
• Or a heavy earth return. Each caravan and trailer manufacturer wires up their plugs differently, so we always request a wiring diagram from the caravan or trailer manufacturer to confirm what needs to be wired to what pin.

Anderson Plugs
Lastly, we have the Anderson plugs. The Anderson plug is most commonly used to

charge the batteries in your trailer or caravan when you are driving. You can do this via a 12 pin plug, but we don't recommend it. The power that is fed into the plug to charge the batteries is generally more than a 12 pin plug can handle, so you are probably going to end up melting your plugs if you try this. We see this quite often when people charge the batteries via them. You can get the Anderson plugs in grey, red, or blue. Each coloured plug does not physically fit into the other colour, so you use a different colour to ensure that you plug them into the right device. When it comes to getting your vehicle wired up to tow a trailer or caravan, there are few things we recommend. If you plan to tow a caravan, we usually suggest getting an Anderson plug installed, especially if you want to charge your caravan's battery from your vehicle. We also recommended getting a fridge feed wired up so you can keep your fridge power up in the van while travelling. Another recommendation, depending on your van, is to get an Anderson plug installed for ESC. Anderson plugs are usually more secure and durable so they are a great option for maintaining a stronger connection, especially if you are heading a little off the beaten track.

-By Andrew Janes

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