

PDI Walkthrough - Section 1

Est 3-4 hours - Bring Camera - Notepad - Flashlight - Leave Kids at Home - Wear clothes that are ok to get dirty

Check Item	Notes
Check labels on both the gray tank(s) & black tank to ensure they are correct	
Fenders not attached to center support	
AC electric breakers were labeled wrong or not labeled at all	
Fuses blowing on electric slide out during operation	
Damaged bed slide seals (from rain gutter)	
Check all slide out seals for rain leaks	
Check antenna crank handle for water leaks (on roof - check caulking)	
Check all roof-opening sealants for cracks/leaks	
Water leaks around shower/behind tub surround/tub faucet	
Exterior A/C gasket leaking water to interior of trailer	
Check all "access door" for rain leaks (might have to use hose)	
Check exterior compartment door seals for water leaks	
Cracked plastic LP bottle cover (if equipped)	
Wrong size mattress on bed	
Remove vents & look in ducts for signs of crushed air duct	
Cabinet doors rubbing cabinet face when opened	
Loose exterior wires where battery attaches to frame & battery	
Water tank gravity fill hose (inside) too high to allow water tank fill	
Loose plumbing fittings / pinched water lines	
Look for loose or missing trim	
Cracked medicine cabinet housing near mounting screws	
Check mirrored door for security of mirror	
Check all electric switches for proper operation (on AC & DC)	
Fit & adjustment of entry doors, & screen doors	
Ensure bathroom vent fan turns correctly (should blow OUT)	
Stereo for reception/interference - DVD Player - MP3 Player	
Loose wires/burning wires inside converter	
Electric slide outs blowing fuses/check slide several times	
Emergency Exit Use	
Gas struts that close doors & some beds -- make sure they are secure!!	

PDI Walkthrough - Section 2

This section should take around 1 hour. At this point, you're generally searching for anything that doesn't look right. My assumption for this PDI is that both (if fitted) propane tanks are full, shore power is available, city water connected via hose & you are connected to a sewer connections. A fully charged battery must be connected as well.

Check Item	Notes
<p>Roof Sealing & Fixtures - You will need to get up on the roof now so round up a ladder or carefully inspect the one on the back of the unit. Check that all the mounting points are solidly attached to the body & the rungs are firmly fixed to the frame. Climb on the roof & inspect all seams, gaskets & any other place that the roof material has been cut or holes drilled. Check that all shrouds & covers are intact, unbroken & properly seated on the roof. Proper polyurethane caulking should have been used to seal all places where the roof has been penetrated. Check closely around air conditioners, vents, antennas, sewer vents, & side seams. Look for any signs of bubbles (large & small), delamination, foreign objects or protruding screw or nail heads under the membrane (if a rubber roof). ** Take shoes off...best in your socks or barefoot.</p>	
<p>Windows - Check closely around each window, ensure it has been properly aligned & sealed.</p>	
<p>Entry Doors - check the gasket used on all doors for proper adhesive & coverage. Look closely at the door from the inside & confirm that it sits flush against the inside of the doorjamb. Confirm that each key works in the appropriate lock. The main door should open & close smoothly & lock without undue effort. Check that the screen door opens smoothly alone & locks to the main door without any extra effort.</p>	
<p>Outside Compartments - open & close each door checking for alignment & gaskets. Confirm that each key works in the appropriate lock All hinges should be tight & secure & the latches should hold the door tightly closed & still be easy to open. Look for any signs of moisture that might indicate rain leakage. Verify that compartment lighting (if fitted) works properly. Any gas cylinders used for keeping to door open should be properly installed so as not to interfere with items stored in the compartment. If clamp-type door hold-opens are used, make sure they are present & hold the door correctly.</p>	
<p>Sewer & Fresh Water Connections - Inspect this area on the trailer to make sure that nothing is broken or deformed. If appropriate at this time, make sure you understand how each valve or fitting works. understand the proper function of the black & gray water valves. If tank flushing is installed, understand how it operates. understand where the low point drains are for the fresh water system.</p>	

PDI Walkthrough - Section 2 (cont)

This section should take around 1 hour. At this point, you're generally searching for anything that doesn't look right. My assumption for this PDI is that both (if fitted) propane tanks are full, shore power is available, city water connected via hose & you are connected to a sewer connections. A fully charged battery must be connected as well.

Check Item	Notes
Cable TV Connections - Find & understand the cable connections. Make sure a weather cap is present for each connector & that connectors are properly identified & mounting plates are properly sealed.	
Propane -If the tank(s) are contained in a compartment, here should be no possible way for propane to enter into the RV or any other compartment. understand how the regulator works & how it switches between cylinders. Confirm that a leak test has been performed on both pigtailed between the tanks & regulator & the rest of the system. Locate & understand the operation of the main shut off valve (if any).	
Battery - Check the battery box to verify that it is ventilated & that any compartment slide mechanisms work properly. Verify that no battery cables are rubbing on any part of the frame because that will eventually end up with a short circuit & possible fire. understand the battery type provided & how to maintain them.	
Spare Tire - Check the condition & pressure of the spare tire & how to remove.	
Tires & Wheels - Closely inspect the tires & wheels & understand the proper inflation pressure. Verify the torque of the lug nuts or have the PDI person do it while you watch. Find out the proper jacking point for the trailer & what kind of jack to use. Determine if your tow vehicle lug nut wrench will fit the lug nuts on the trailer or if another size is necessary.	

PDI Walkthrough - Section 3

OUTSIDE WALK AROUND - The outside walk around should take around one hour. At this point, you're generally searching for anything that does not look right. My assumption for this PDI is that both (if fitted) propane tanks are full, shore power is available, city water & a hose are located close by & sewer connections, a drain or a dump station is available. A fully charged battery must be connected as well.

Check Item	Notes
<p>Paint & Siding- Carefully check the paint finish on the RV. Any problems can be verified & corrected at this point with a lot less hassle. Site down the side of the unit to check for bumps or depressions in the siding. Divide each side of the unit into 2, 3 or 4 sections & inspect for siding issues: color variations, dents or irregularities. Do the same for the ends of the unit Look at places where vinyl film is used to make sure it is free of any air bubbles. Check ends of any decals for uniformity or "mistakes" that may have gouged the siding. Look closely where masking tape was used for paint graphics to make sure there is no over-spray. Carefully check for surface smoothness & any place when paint coverage is marginal or if there are bubbles.</p>	
<p>Awning(s) - Extend & retract each awning paying particular attention to how the awning is locked in the retracted position. Make sure all springs, locks & supports work well & are properly aligned. Wiggle the mounting points for the support arms to get a feeling for how solidly they are mounted to the body.</p>	
<p>Slide Out Operation - If your RV includes a slide-out or slide-outs then spend the time it takes to understand its operation. Start by checking the seals while the slide is retracted. You should not be able to find any places where you can see light or detect airflow. Use a flashlight to look into dark corners. understand the mechanism that extends & retracts the slide. Operate it several times & understand any restrictions on operation. understand the manual retraction process & actually perform the retraction as if the automatic mechanism had failed. Look for proper alignment of any wheels that may ride on carpet or other flooring, to insure proper clearance. understand any locking mechanisms that are used to hold the top of the slide out tight against the top of the RV. Do your best to make sure the seals are properly installed & operational when the slide is retracted & also when it is extended.</p>	
<p>Chassis Inspection - Put on some old clothes or coveralls & get a good-sized piece of cardboard or carpet to make it easier to lie on you back while checking around under the trailer. If it's possible to do so without jacking up the rig, it's a lot easier, but do what makes sense to you. You want to be able to Inspect all air & / or hydraulic lines, wiring, shock absorber attachments, & in general every place that a wire or pipe could rub against something that could cause a problem later. All wiring & piping should be properly fastened.</p>	

PDI Walkthrough - Section 4

INSIDE FIT & FINISH - Now its time to go inside. In general you are looking for things that are not finished correctly since it is too late to inspect the design of anything.

Check Item	Notes
Cabinets - Inspect & open all of the cabinets to insure that the hinges & latches work well. Pull each drawer out to its stop, return it closed & then try to open it like road vibration might do. Makes sure that there have been no water leaks & that all the wiring & pipes are well fastened. Inspect the linings (if any), to insure they are fastened securely. Run your h& along all edges, front & back to check for & delamination or loose edges on molding/vinyl wraps.	
Molding & Trim - Go over all the trim on walls, doors & furniture. Make sure that everything is fastened on well & not loose or ready to come off.	
Lighting - Operate every light switch & observe its function. Use the monitor panel to check battery levels. understand & verify any battery disconnect switches. (at this point, only 12V lighting can be tested, as the unit is NOT connected to shore power yet)	
Closets -open & close all closet doors checking for free operation & proper alignment. Hanger rods should be properly fastened & secure. Check out the lighting that is provided & any switches that are used.	
Furniture - Examine every piece of furniture to check for construction, upholstery, pattern & cloth matching. Check out the dinette by making it a bed with the appropriate cushions. Do the same with the couch or sofa.	
Blinds - Operate each blind & check for alignment. Look at all valances & trim to be sure they are secured.	
Counter Tops - Inspect all counter tops for alignment & fastening. Make sure that any trim pieces that should be there are in fact tight. Check for caulking quality everywhere there may be water, especially edges near a sink. Check the installation of sinks & faucets.	
Floor Coverings - Inspect carpet & other floor coverings in all corners to insure that they have been properly fastened down. Check areas that slide outs may roll over for pulled threads, cuts or other problems. Check closely for gouges or cuts in linoleum tile.	
Wall Coverings - Check to make sure that all the wall coverings actually cover & join properly. Look for any discoloration or patch jobs that may cover hidden problems. Try to find any places where it is not perfect since now is the time to get it fixed while matching patterns are in stock. (Some folks suggest ordering extra fabric, carpet, & wallpaper now so that matching material is available to make small modifications or repairs at a later date.)	

PDI Walkthrough - Section 5

OPERATION TEST OF ALL SYSTEMS - You're now ready to test all of the house type systems.

Check Item	Notes
<p>Shore Power System - Now is the time to connect up to shore power. Pull out all of the AC cord, confirm the length & inspect the plug for proper attachment. Inside the unit, check any 110V lighting & switches. (If you have a 110V receptacle tester, check all outlets for proper wiring/polarity.) Find the GFI-protected outlet & test using the push button. understand which receptacles "down stream" from the GFI are protected. Any electrical problems here should be corrected immediately.</p>	
<p>Converter - Confirm the operation of the converter/charger that is installed. Turn on several interior lights to create a load for the converter & confirm no excessive converter noise or vibration. Have the PDI person explain the operation of the converter, the AC circuit breakers & the DC fuses. Make sure that there is a written list of the loads connected to each.</p>	
<p>Water Pump - Your PDI person should have filled the fresh water tank, so now you can test the function of the water pump. After turning it on, you should hear it pump for several seconds, even up to a minute to create enough pressure in the system. If the pump does not shut off, then there is a problem. Run water in the kitchen & bathroom sink & notice that the pump will come back on until proper water pressure is restored. Now is the time to fix a noisy pump if it is vibrating or making any irritating sounds</p>	
<p>City Water System - Turn off the pump, connect up to city water (use a regulator if overly high pressure is suspected) & confirm that the connection works correctly. Look for leaks under sinks & confirm the operation of all fixtures.</p>	
<p>Air Conditioners - Some air conditioners also have a heat strip or heat pump feature so now is the time to verify these functions. Turn on the air conditioner. After a couple of minutes, cool air, 20 degrees cooler than ambient, should be coming out of the registers. If you unit has ducting in the ceiling, make sure a good airflow comes out of each register. Learn how to clean the filters at this time.</p>	
<p>Propane & Carbon Monoxide Alarms & Smoke Detector- now is a good time to check the function of these alarms. The PDI person should have a small canister of gas that can be sprayed at the alarm to test its operation. Have them perform this test while you watch & learn how the alarms work. Confirm that there is a new battery in the Smoke Detector (write the date on it for reference) Activate the test button to check operation of the smoke detector. understand how to turn it off.</p>	

PDI Walkthrough - Section 5 (cont)

OPERATION TEST OF ALL SYSTEMS - You should be about 3 hours into to the PDI.

Check Item	Notes
<p>Tanks - Re-fill the fresh water tank if necessary & run water into the gray tank to verify the gauge reading & that there are no leaks. Filling the gray tank until water comes up in the shower will make it easier to find leaks inside & out. Do the same thing to the black water tank, including filling so that water comes up inside the toilet. Check for leaks (if the toilet is installed correctly, there will be no leaks!) You can fill the black water tank by using the tank flushing system (if fitted), by using a garden hose adapter for the sewer connection (through a backflow preventer) or by bringing the water hose inside & filling the tank through the toilet. This last method can be a little cumbersome, & I don't recommend unless you've done it before. Check the gauges for accuracy while you are filling Now is the time you want to find leaks if there are any. Drain the gray & black water tanks using the sewer hose or the garden hose adapter.</p>	
<p>Furnace - Now its time to understand the operation of the thermostat that controls heating & sometimes the air conditioning. Turn the furnace on & set a temperature at least 10 degrees hotter than ambient temperature. In about 30 seconds, you should hear the furnace fans come on. Shortly thereafter you should hear the click of the igniter & the sound of the burner. If not then there is a problem. It could also be taking a while for propane to get to the heater, so don't despair. Let the furnace blow & you should get hot air at about 110 degrees coming out of all vents. Check each one. Now turn the furnace down & the hot air will gradually turn cooler & the fans will eventually stop after the furnace has cooled sufficiently. During this process have someone with a good nose checking for any smell of material getting too hot, or exhaust coming out.</p>	
<p>TV's, Radio, DVD Player - If your RV is equipped with a DVD/Bluray player...bring one of each. Test them both to ensure the audio and video from each are working. Now, have the dealer connect you to their cable TV source and test you can scan for channels and they appear. Next, raise the antenna and scan for over the air channels. Make sure you understand all the functions of the radio...like how to control inside and outside speakers. (your camping neighbors will appreciate this <grin>) If you have 2 TV's...test them both for cable and over the air connections. Check remote works with TV.</p>	
<p>Water Heater - Try the water heater on propane first. A few seconds after you turn it on, you should hear the click of the igniter & the small pop when the burner lights. The red light should stay on until that process happens. If it does not ignite, then there is a problem. Turn the AC element in the water heater (if connected) & confirm operation. Make sure you know the location of the electrical switch at the water heater & the correct operation of the interior switch. If your unit is so equipped, understand the operation of the bypass valves for winterizing. Confirm that hot (or warm water depending on how long the water heater has been on) comes out of the hot tap at the various sinks.</p>	

PDI Walkthrough - Section 6 -- 5th Wheel Focus

OPERATION TEST OF ALL 5th Wheel RV Items. - You should be about 4 hours into to the PDI by now....almost there. :)

Check Item	Notes
<p>Landing Gear (Electric) - Ensure you fully understand how to operate the front landing legs. They are adjustable and you will need to be shown how to raise/lower the adjustable section, BEFORE you start to lower/raise the actual extending legs. Ensure the dealer/seller shows you the breaker for the landing gear. This is typically a 50amp breaker and has a VERY VERY VERY tiny reset button. Make sure you know where this is located. If this breaker flips, you will no longer have power going to your battery from the converter and therefore batteries will no longer charge. The back landing legs do not have a variable height control, so you might consider purchasing blocks to put under these legs, in case you camp in a location where the site might be uneven.</p>	
<p>Landing Gear (Hydraulic) - Ensure you fully understand how to operate the front landing legs first. Most RV's will have a remote switch outside the trailer, under the bed area of the RV. Please locate this switch and ensure it operates the front legs both up and down. The legs in the back are controlled by a separate controller, which will be located in the basement. Ensure the dealer has shown you how to operate the rear legs...how to operate the controller (see next section for more details) Check to make sure all jacks are set to the same height on the frame....there are multiple height settings, so ensure they are the same.</p>	
<p>Landing Gear Controller - I have the LCI controller, so I will refer to this controller. It is critical you understand the "Auto Level" function....how to operate the "return to unhitch height" mode and finally ask them to show you how to reset controller to "Zero Point". As with all electronic devices, they sometimes lose everything and you will need to reset the controller to "zero point" (which is a fancy term for level). The controller will use this new setting for all future "auto level" requests, so it is important you understand how to do this.</p>	
<p>Hydraulic Pump - Inspect the area around/under the pump to ensure there is no leaks. If equipped, have the dealer show you how to select specific slides to have come out. Typical behavior is to have one (1) switch inside the RV, that will open all major slides. (bedroom is typically electric not hydraulic). Have dealer show you how to manually retract the slides, in case the hydraulic pump fails....write that information down...VERY important.</p>	
<p>Residential (electric) Refrigerator - Having one is nice..they are BIG. Have dealer show you how to winterize these, as the water line to them is tricky to fully winterize. You don't want water in that line and have it freeze as it will crack and then you will have a huge water mess. Have dealer show you the inverter that creates the AC to run the refrigerator. Ensure you understand how to turn this inverter on/off to save battery power when not in use. Understand how to lock doors for travel.</p>	

PDI Walkthrough - Section 6 (cont) -- 5th Wheel Focus

OPERATION TEST OF ALL 5th Wheel RV Items. - You should be about 4 hours into to the PDI by now....almost there. :)

Check Item	Notes
<p>Washer/Dryer - Have dealer connect you to power and water. Run 1-2 cycles in the washer...check for leaks. If there is no drip pan under washing machine...GET ONE. Run dryer for 1 cycle to ensure heat is operational. Check both hot/cold connections for possible leaks. These water lines should be turns off when washing machine is not in use. While they are running, listen for abnormal sounds or rattling. Ensure dryer is vented properly. If guying used, check vent line for built up lint from dryer.</p>	
<p>Basement - Have dealer show you how to access the area behind the basement wall (toward rear). In this closed off area, you will find the converter (creates DC power from AC...charges battery and powers 12v items when plugged in). Visually inspect this area for possible damaged wire...left over debris during RV build...etc.</p>	

Summary

You have now done a simple test of the major house systems & can shut everything off.

By now, you will have a list of things that you feel need correcting, but it may be then the end of the day, so plan on camping near the dealer for the night. This will give you a chance to further test the various functions.

Prepare yourself for waiting until these things are corrected & don't be tempted by the PDI person to sign the acceptance paperwork just yet.

For a really serious checkout of your new trailer, you should "dry camp" the first night & not be tempted to hook up to shore utilities just yet. Bring enough kitchen equipment & food so that you can prepare an evening meal. There is no better way to test the living facilities than to actually use them. Don't be tempted, since you've had a tough day to go out to eat

Oh...bring some memory foam to place on top of the "mattress". You and your back will thank me in the morning.

If you found this document helpful, please share with others.

Thanks,
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