

# Living in a Van Down by the River:



**How to Make Any Car, Truck, or Van  
Your Happy and Healthy Home**

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## **Table of Contents**

<b>Chapter 1</b>	<b>Why Live in a Van?</b>	<b>Page... 4</b>
<b>Chapter 2</b>	<b>Finding the Right Vehicle</b>	<b>Page... 7</b>
<b>Chapter 3</b>	<b>Accessorize the Vehicle for your Needs</b>	<b>Page... 12</b>
<b>Chapter 4</b>	<b>Safety Features</b>	<b>Page... 20</b>
<b>Chapter 5</b>	<b>Testing your Vehicle</b>	<b>Page... 27</b>
<b>Chapter 6</b>	<b>Selecting your Location</b>	<b>Page... 31</b>
<b>Chapter 7</b>	<b>Conclusion – We Did It!</b>	<b>Page... 34</b>



# Chapter 1

## Why Live in a Van?

Living in a van down by the river can be a great way to spend the summer! It could even be the start of a good movie! Most of us feel like we could use some more adventure in our lives - this can be a way to do something new, refreshing, and exciting.

It can even be cost effective all year long if you are able to make it work for you. Many people are doing all they can to cut costs and to make sure they are able to have a comfortable place. They don't want to go live with family

or friends. That can be embarrassing, crowded, and it can put a huge strain on personal relationships.

They love living around the river so they can have access to water, enjoy fishing, and even go swimming. They also find that the investment on the vehicle pays for itself quickly. In many situations, it is less expensive than paying for an apartment for a month!

This can also be a great way for a couple to be able to learn more about each other! There won't be all of the distractions of a normal relationship. Either the adventure will result in a very close bond and enjoying each other's company, or the relationship will fizzle out. For new couples it can be a wonderful way to get all the time they want with each other.

With established couples, it can be a way for them to move into new areas. Perhaps they aren't the best at communication or they are always running in opposite directions. Living in a vehicle by the river in close quarters is a way to confront the problem head on and try to work it out.

This is an adventure that can help reduce stress on the budget and also make it possible to enjoy the simple things in life. It doesn't matter if you are talking about teenagers or you are talking about adults taking on this endeavor. It is more common than people think – it's happening at rivers all over the world!

It does take some planning though to get this all in motion so that it will work for you. Making sure the vehicle is safe, has all you need, and that

you have found a legal parking place are all essential. It can be fun to determine where to stay.

In fact, some people spend a bit of time in one place and then they journey to a new location when they are ready. Making sure the vehicle is in excellent condition is a must if you plan to move it. You will also have to think about securing all of the items inside so that nothing gets damaged while the vehicle is in motion.

As you read through the various chapters, you will get a very good idea of what you need to focus on. You can also come up with some creative ideas of your own if you feel that living in a van down by the river is something that you would love to experience!



## Chapter 2

# Finding the Right Vehicle

Finding the right vehicle is very important, as you want to have something you can work with and that you are comfortable in. That is why a van tends to work better than other vehicles. However, you can make something unique and useful from just about any car, truck, or vehicle you can get your hands on. For example, my grandfather boarded up the back of his F-150 with sheets of plywood (he did install windows when HE was living by the river).

One of the most important things to consider is how many people will be living in the vehicle. You can get by with less space if it is just you (or even one extra person). For a family, though, you will need considerably more space so that you aren't crowded. Small spaces can make tempers short!

Another important factor with the size of the vehicle is the amenities that you may be after. Do you want all of the perks you can fit in there or do you want to make it very primitive with just the basics in place? You also need to think about where you will be going.

Are you going to be able to use a two-wheel drive vehicle that is low to the ground in order to drive into the location where you wish to camp? If you want to be secluded then you may need a vehicle with four wheel drive, a high center, and a heavy duty suspension in order to get there and not be stuck along the way.

Knowing where to look is important, and you want to diversify your options as much as you can. Look for cargo vans that were once used by commercial companies. They often upgrade the suspension due to the excess weight that these vans were carrying. You can typically get them for a great price when they replace them.

The vans that were operated in states that get a great deal of adverse weather will typically have either all-wheel drive or four wheel drive. When building your own camper out of a van, this is the best place to start looking for the vehicles. Most of them only had a driver's seat, so that leaves more area for you to work with and less for you to remove.

There are plenty of places where you can look for such a vehicle. You can go online and find them through various sites - including social media, Craigslist, and eBay. Look around town, too, as you may see an older vehicle sitting in someone's yard that they aren't using. If you approach them, they may be willing to sell it to you for a low price.

You can also advertise that you are looking for such a vehicle. Then people can contact you if they have something available. Many people out there could use a bit of extra money in their wallet these days. When they see your ad, they may be motivated to call you, and it is a winning outcome for both of you.

Try to be selective about who you buy from and what you get. For example, you want a vehicle that has a title to it when possible. If not, be ready for the process that you will have to go through in order to get a salvage or replacement title.

A junkyard could be a perfect place for you to get your hands on a great vehicle. There could be some body damage, but that is okay. You can take out that part and fix it up. If there is something wrong with the engine, perhaps you have the skills to fix it for a low price. Any time a vehicle has damage to the body or it has engine issues you can usually get the vehicle for cheap.

A high mileage vehicle is also something that you may be able to get for a low cost. However, you need to look at the pros and cons of this option. If

you plan to stay local in one spot then it won't be too much of an issue. However, if you plan to travel some distance then you need to make sure it will be reliable. You don't want to invest in fixing it up just the way you want it, and then have something major go wrong that makes it unusable for your needs.

Remember when you select your vehicle that dark colors absorb heat faster. If you can find one that is white or another light color, that will help you to stay cooler. This can make a huge difference if you plan to spend a great deal of time in the vehicle during the spring and summer months.

How much do you want to pay? You can get a basic vehicle that has some interior issues for a very low price. If you want a completely decked out conversion vehicle that is ready to go, it is going to cost you significantly more. Many people keep the cost low by getting a vehicle that does need to be gutted, and then they make it what they want. They feel it is better to invest in the various items that they would like to have inside of the vehicle as opposed to on the body. Of course, you need to make sure it is in good running condition so that it will actually get you to the river! This includes the engine, the tires, and the steering.

No matter how much money you have to spend, you should be able to find something in your price range. If you have cash to work with, you may be able to get the seller to lower the price, too. When they see the cash in hand for what they are selling, it can be a huge incentive.

It doesn't hurt to offer them less than they are asking. If they say no, then you have the option to look for something else, to give them a counter offer, or to give them their asking price. If you don't have much money to work with, you will have to focus on the basics.

For now, you will have to create a livable vehicle that has your needs covered. It may not be the most comfortable, and you may have to go without many perks for now, but that is part of the experience that some people enjoy. Make a list of your items that you want and those that you need. Separate them, and then as you have money to invest, you can continue to add items from your want list to the vehicle.

With this type of vehicle, you will have to build out it in a manner that allows you to have lots of storage, such as shelves and cabinets. For example, instead of framing the bed directly on the floor between the wheel wells, frame the bed above them. This gives you access under the bed for additional storage space. If you need more than one bed, place them strategically at each of the wheel wells for maximizing space.



## Chapter 3

# Accessorize the Vehicle For Your Dreams

What will take your vehicle that you plan to live in by the river from just a shell to something you call home? It may be all in how you accessorize it. There are quite a few options that you can consider to make it practical, usable, and low cost. It all depends on if you want to go bare bones or completely self-contained.

Your own personal needs have to be assessed before you move forward with this project. Do you want only beds, seats for relaxing, and maybe a place to make easy meals? If so, you can set it up for you to do that very easily. You can also set things up for your cooking to all be done outside of the vehicle. This is what my family does when we do this sort of thing – and it's what we recommend. It is certainly safer.

There are quite a few options for doing this. These options include stoves, grills, and ovens that you can use at a campsite. You don't want to always rely on starting a fire due to many areas having fire bans that will prevent you from doing so. You need to have a safe and practical alternative. Many of these stoves, grills, and ovens, are small and don't take up much space. You can easily store them when not in use.

Building shelves and cabinets can be a wonderful way to make the inside of the vehicle look nice and to make room for your items. There are home improvement stores that already have complete shelves and cabinets for sale, so you can buy them and just install them. You don't always have to buy new items, either. You can look online, go to yard sales, and go to second hand stores to find used items at a fraction of the cost.

Make sure you have special latches on your cabinets. This will prevent any types of animals that may get into the vehicle from being able to access what is inside of them. It may sound a bit over the top, but if you feel doubtful about whether or not you want to do this step, go online and watch videos of bears and other animals getting into vehicles looking for food.

You will be amazed at how clever they are and how quickly they can destroy what you have in those cabinets. It is a better option to completely safeguard against such an outcome, so that you don't have to replace those items.

If the cabinets will be customized, make sure they have a good lip on them. This way they won't pop open when you are driving. The magnetic options tend to shift open. You can easily install slide locks to the drawers and cabinets on your own. You can buy them at any home improvement store for a couple of bucks. They are secured in place with a few screws and that is all you have to do.

This is a better option than arriving at the river and discovering all of your items are all over the place. Many of them can get damaged or ruined, and you don't want that to occur.

You can also consider accessorizing the vehicle with a receiver hitch. Then you can buy a cargo carrier that attaches to it. This is a great place for storing coolers, stoves, propane, etc. It will help you to maximize the room you have inside while still having a safe location for everything you need to keep with you. Make sure that the items you have outdoors aren't going to be stolen or be blocking the area around your campsite.

If you have a van, you may want to make it so that you can access it through the side door when you get in and out – that will allow you more space and make it easier to work within that area. However, if you need a

bed or other item against that location, you can weld it shut and always enter through the driver or passenger door on the van.

If you plan on having household products in the vehicle such as a TV, heating and cooling units, there are several options available. Small generators are offered that allow you to operate all of your electrical items including household appliances if you care to have them in your vehicle. They will take up about  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the amount of space you have within a cargo carrier.

Many people don't want to have a generator due to the noise it makes. What they don't know is that newer models are very quiet. You won't hear them running outside when you are in the vehicle. You won't be disrupting other people around the campsite, either. For about 1 gallon of fuel, the generator can operate for a period of 10 hours, so it is quite economical.

Look for a product on the market that is dual purpose for both heating and cooling so that you don't have to get both. It only takes basic skills and tools to mount one in the back of a vehicle so that the area will stay warm or cool enough for your comfort.

Never, under any circumstances, should you be relying on running the vehicle and using the heating or cooling that it offers. This is too risky due to the deadly problem of carbon dioxide poisoning. Even if you have ventilation in place and even if you have a carbon dioxide detector, don't do it.

Curtains can certainly add some nice touches to the vehicle when you plan to live in it down by the river. It is a good idea to have a dark color so that you can close them and block out the sunlight if you wish to be inside sometimes during the day. With a van, you can also install a rod with long curtains behind the driver's seat area. It should be long enough to go all the way across.

This offers you some additional privacy when you want it from those that may be walking by. You don't want them to be able to peek into your van when you are trying to rest. Again, you can use a dark color to block out the sunlight during the day if you should so desire.

Depending on how rustic you want the vehicle to be, you may want to consider different types of flooring. You can make it simple with rubber mats that are easy to clean. You can also put carpeting in there if you want to have something soft under your feet.

If you select carpet, you need to think about keeping it clean. You can use the generator to operate a small vacuum now and then. If you would like to have something decorative, consider linoleum. However, you need to put something secure under this type of flooring. Plywood and wafer board are both good options to consider. They can be a base to attach the other products to. Using self-tapping screws, you will have a great base. Then you can glue the carpet or linoleum in place and it will stay very well.

Installing wooden slats along the walls and ceiling with self-tapping screws is also a great method. This provides you with the chance to offer insulation

for the winter months and to run wiring. Then you can cover it all up with paneling. The wooden slats offer you a base to secure the screws for the paneling. They will blend in well and not stick out. You can put any color of decorative paneling you want, or you can pick ¼ inch plywood and paint it any color you desire. If you want to really decorate it, consider some wallpaper.

There are all types of designs out there to pick from. Remember, you will be living in it and seeing it all the time, so pick what you will be happy looking at all the time. If you decide to paint, select something that is water based – otherwise, being so close to the water can start to make it peel over time and you will have to redo it.

The miniaturization of the many items you can include is going to blow you away. You can get a small vacuum, washer and dryer (and you thought you were going to be scrubbing the clothes in the river), countertop dishwasher, and even a microwave. They can fit in very small places and give you some of the comforts of home that you don't want to miss out on.

Need that morning coffee? You can get a device that makes a full pot and plugs into the cigarette lighter on your vehicle! Keeping your food cold is important, and you can't always count on being able to get to town to get more ice - so a compact refrigerator and even compact freezer can be ideal for your vehicle by the river.

Of course these appliances will significantly increase the cost invested in your vehicle. Still, if it is a long-term living area, you can add items that will

enhance the value. You can benefit from them while you use it and also have improved selling power when you are done with it.

You need to make sure you properly store all food, either in the refrigerator or in cabinets. The smell of food can attract animals that you want to keep away. You need to have a secure way to keep trash free from smelling and out of reach of the animals. There should be a location around the river area where you can throw things away. Collect trash daily from your vehicle so it won't stink.

If you plan to be at the river for a while, consider building a box-like contraption that will be hard for any animal to open. This can be a wonderful way to store the trash until you can take it to another location. It also keeps the trash outside, so that significantly reduces the risk of the vehicle starting to smell because of it.

If you plan to create a vehicle that will have running water for the sink, shower, or toilet, you are going to need a water tank. You have quite a few options with them, including the size. The more water you need to use daily, the larger size you will need to get. They are going to take up several feet of space. There are water tanks that offer fresh water and those that have tanks to hold sewer water.

A fresh water tank will offer you a spot to put a water pump. They will operate with a 12-volt power resource. The pump will allow the water system to have pressure. It will only operate when you turn on a faucet and the rest of the time it is idle, not continually using power. Depending on the

model you select, the tank can be either mounted inside the vehicle with the sub floor built over it, or it can be mounted underneath the vehicle.

It is a good idea to think about what you will use before you design the interior of the vehicle in case you need to make room for it. Water tanks that go under the vehicle will need to be for a truck or a van - there isn't usually enough clearance to secure them under a car, but most cars won't have enough room for a sink, shower, or toilet either! This is one more thing to consider when you are selecting the right vehicle to live in by the river.

An extra set of keys for everything inside of the vehicle as well as the lock on the vehicle should be well hidden outdoors. Make sure it isn't in a common location where anyone else can guess. Make sure that the keys are secured with wire or other device so that they won't fall off when you move the vehicle.

You won't be able to just reach into your pocket and dial the locksmith if you are living in a vehicle down by the river. Even if you are always cautious about picking up the keys when you go out, you need to make sure you have extras in place. If you never need them, that's fine, but if you ever do, you will be very grateful you took this advice.



## Chapter 4

# Safety Features

It is always a good idea to keep safety in mind. You need to have some basic items on hand, including a fire extinguisher. You need to make sure that the vehicle is safe at all times. This includes the wiring, the items you have inside of it, and any items you have in the cargo unit. Routinely check that all is good to prevent unnecessary risks.

The fire extinguisher is one of the most important safety features to have in place. Make sure you mount it securely, so that they can't roll around when

you drive the vehicle. It needs to always be in the same place when you reach for it.

Make sure you have at least one smoke detector and one carbon dioxide detector in the van. This will help to ensure that you are alerted if there are any such safety issues in time for you to get out of the vehicle. The batteries in such devices should be changed every six months.

If you plan to have a stove, water heater, or appliances inside of the vehicle, then you need to routinely check them. Review all of the cords and make sure they don't have any damage. A vent in the roof of the vehicle is highly recommended. When you have such items in a confined space, there is the risk of fumes building quickly, so you need to eliminate that possibility from occurring.

Keep items on hand that you can reach from both inside the vehicle and outside of it. Carry bear spray, pepper spray, and other items to protect you. Bears CAN open locks, so if they find out you have food they can get in. They can also break glass if they are hungry and determined.

Unfortunately, you also need to think safety in terms of other people getting into the vehicle. Make sure you have very sturdy doors and that you have quality locks. You should be able to lock the vehicle when you are inside so that no one can get in without your permission. You should also be able to securely lock it up when you venture away from the vehicle such as for hiking or for going fishing further down the river.

Because you may end up choosing a location that is far from town, always have a well-stocked first aid kit. It needs to have plenty of supplies for a variety of types of problems. It should include scissors, gauze, bandages, antiseptic ointment, snakebite cures, over the counter pain medicine, and more. We also highly recommend that you have a [book on the subject of first aid](#).

If you plan to be roughing it a long way from town, you may be better off going for an overall survival kit. It has all of the basic items of a first aid kit, but it also offers some advanced items - including a scalpel and pain medicine for an abscess tooth. It should feature water purification tablets in the event that you are out of water and you need to purify some from the river.

Have some medical supplies on hand in case you need them. This includes supplies for common ailments such as headaches or back pain. Get eye drops, eardrops, sore throat medication, allergy pills, anti-rash cream, and anything else you can think of that you may need should be on hand.

If you take prescription medications, you certainly need to make sure you have enough for your time by the river. Make sure you store all medications in a dry location away from the sunlight. A small, insulated lunchbox can be a very good option.

A CB radio is a good idea if you will be in locations where you aren't going to have cell phone reception. This type of communication can help you get assistance if you really need it quickly. You may not be camping in an area

where there are lots of other people. The more remote the area is, the more important it is to have a CB in place.

Make sure the CB you obtain has the WX weather channel available. You will need to be well aware of any alerts or evacuation. You will only get the weather updates and advisories for your given location as the signal will always bounce off of the closest towers to you.

It may be best to get the handheld type of CB that you can take with you when you are away from your vehicle. That way you can always stay on top of alerts. With adverse weather, you may not have much time at all to get prepared. Getting that alert as soon as possible lets you make the decision to find shelter where you are or to make the trek back to your vehicle for shelter.

Flares are a good idea to have, too, because they can be seen from such a long distance away. If you can't communicate with your CB radio or your cell phone, flares can send a message quickly. However, this type of backup plan should only be used in the event of an emergency.

Consider adding screens to the windows. You can cut them to fit. This allows you to open the windows when you would like to for ventilation and air circulation. It also reduces the risk of bugs and mosquitoes getting inside. You may want to put a bug zapper outside to help with reducing the volume of bugs you have to encounter. During certain times of the year, they are in abundance.

Even though you want your privacy, always make sure someone knows where you will be and when you will be back. You may have limited resources to connect with them, but check in on a regular basis. They should have a good idea of how to find you if you don't check in. This is a safety precaution, as you never know what will happen. You should plan for the worst out there. Chances are it won't happen, but if you need help, at least you know that someone will come looking for you at a given point in time if you haven't been heard from.

Have a safe or small lock box that is fireproof for important papers, cash, jewelry, and other items that you don't want to lose. If someone were to break into your vehicle while you are away from it, you don't want to lose such items.

If you have the vehicle insured, make sure the coverage will also include the contents - then take digital photos and keep them at a safe location (not in the vehicle) where you can access them should you have a theft, water damage, or experience a fire.

Avoid using candles or lanterns in your vehicle, as they are dangerous. If you wish, you can opt for some solar lights and just put them outside during the day to collect the energy - then you can use them at night inside of the vehicle. This is a great idea, especially if you aren't going to have access to electricity.

You can also rely on flameless candles to help you create the atmosphere you want without any risk. They never get hot and they will continue to offer

hours and hours of light when you turn them on. They are LED battery based, so they don't use much energy to keep them going.

There are even flameless candles that have timers on them. Will you be returning to the vehicle after dark? Just set the timers so that they will come on at a given time. Then you will have light when you return. The timer can also give the illusion to others in the area that someone is in the vehicle when it is empty. This can deter the risk of theft.

Flameless candles have certainly come a long way. You will find those that sit on tables and those that you can put in holders on the wall for decorations. In addition to the round shape, you will find square and rectangle shapes. They are also offered in a variety of colors.

Some even have a very realistic effect with a flickering wick or what appears to be melted wax at the top. Surprisingly, you won't miss real candles at all! Check them out and see what you think!

Rotate your supplies so that nothing expires. When you buy new items, move older items forward and put the newer ones in the back. This way you always have a system for what you will use. Have a calendar that you use for maintenance and for battery changing schedules. Speaking of batteries, always make sure you have plenty of extras on hand for the various devices in your vehicle.

Being organized is important when you have this much in one small space. Make sure items overhead are going to stay in place so that they don't fall

on you when you walk by. Less is more in terms of what you have out in the open. By putting items upward instead of outward you will have more room – but make sure you do it safely.



## Chapter 5

# Testing your Vehicle

While you may be in a rush to take that vehicle to the river and live in it, you need to test everything before you do so. Identifying that it is all in good working condition will keep you safe. It will also prevent frustrations that you forgot this item or that item and now you have to do without them.

If you have installed anything that requires plumbing - such as a shower, toilet, or sink, you need to test all of them for leaks. The time to find out that

you have an issue isn't when you are already out there at the river, trying to make a life or life experience for yourself.

More importantly, if you have done any electrical wiring for your appliances to operate off of shore power or a generator, you need to test them. You want to make sure nothing is getting too hot and can overheat. You want to make sure there aren't any short circuits. You also want to make sure that there isn't an overload that will shut it all down.

Test your smoke detector and carbon detector to make sure they work. If you have any stoves or other cooking items, use them in the vehicle once prior to doing so at the river. The purpose of this is to make sure that your ventilation system is properly set up. If you can cook in the vehicle and not set off the detectors, then that is a very good indicator that you have done the ventilation very well.

All vehicles have specific weight ratings of what they can carry on each axle. Avoid getting too much weight on one end of the vehicle; try to evenly distribute it as much as possible. During the building process, if you have a place close by that has a commercial scale for vehicles (grain elevator), take the vehicle there at regular intervals. You want to weigh it – the front axles and the back axles separately. This helps you to see that the front and the rear are balanced.

You have to make sure your vehicle is in good enough condition for you to drive it safely on the roads. Check the tires to make sure they have enough pressure and that the tread on them is good. Test the blinkers to make sure

they work like they should. Do the headlights and the brights work on the vehicle like they should? That may not be necessary if you don't plan to drive it at night. You will need to have license plates and insurance on the vehicle, too, in case you get pulled over or you get into an accident.

When was the last time the oil was changed? Are the fluids full, including antifreeze, transmission fluid, and windshield wiper fluid? All of this is important so that you don't end up stranded with problems that you have to try to fix on the side of the road. You need the basics of the vehicle to operate well for you so that you can actually rely on the vehicle to get you to and from the intended destination.

It may sound silly, but make sure the gas gauge works! On older vehicles it may not, and that could be a huge issue. If it doesn't, write down the mileage each time you get gas and estimate on the low side how many miles you can safely travel before you need to fuel up again.

Does the speedometer work? If not, you will have a harder time obeying posted speed limit laws. It isn't enough to just be able to keep up with the flow of traffic - that isn't going to get you off the hook with a traffic ticket or speeding in a construction zone!

If you have a trailer hitch, it needs to be secure and you need to make sure the lights for the trailer work. If you have items that are tied to the back or the top of the vehicle they need to be tied securely in place. When you stop along your route, double check them as they can work loose over time.

It is going to be easier for you to fix anything when you are at home than when you are at the river. However, you should have some basic tools with you on site so that you can do minor repairs if you need to. Even if you test everything, you still need be prepared for what could occur down the road.



## Chapter 6

# Selecting your Location

Where do you want to go with your vehicle? The world is waiting! Knowing your options is a good place to start. You may have ordinances locally that prevent you from putting such a vehicle in place by the river. Other locations allow it, but only for a set period of time.

There can be locations where fishing isn't allowed, so that can hinder your ability to catch food to eat. Others don't allow fires due to the risk, and that

may play a role in where you would like to go. Also, there are areas that are far too crowded for someone that would like to have some seclusion.

Maybe you don't want to stay local with your vehicle by the river. However, if moving a great distance is your plan, you need to investigate what you can and can't do at given areas so that you don't get run off by local law enforcement for violating the laws. You don't want to end up with a fine or a court date involved for not paying attention to these established rules and laws.

Always park your vehicle above the highest water line for the river. Flash flooding can occur very rapidly and you need to make sure your vehicle will be out of harms way should it occur. Don't make the assumption that you will have the time to move it!

Weather conditions certainly need to be a factor to consider for location. Some areas can easily get into the triple digits in the summer months. Inside of the vehicle, it can be too hot and you don't want to rely on the generator all the time. Other locations are just too bitter cold for winter outdoor living by the river, so you need to look at that.

Find a location with temperatures that are moderate for the time of year you plan to be there. If you are going to be living in the vehicle by the river for a period of time, then you need to look at the seasonal changes that could influence your decision. Areas of high wind, hail, or tornado risk may affect the places you consider.

You definitely want to try to find a level spot that is also dry (if possible) where you will park your vehicle. Carry with you several blocks of wood and when you select that location, slide them behind the front tires and in front of the back tires. This will prevent your vehicle from slipping and rolling.



## Chapter 7

### Conclusion – We Did It!

Living in a van or other vehicle down by the river isn't right for everyone, but you won't know unless you give it a try! It could be something you plan to do for a few weeks, for the summer, or for the long term. If you decide that your time living this way is done, you can always sell your vehicle to someone else.

It really shouldn't be hard to sell it, either, as many people love this idea! They also like the fact that the vehicle is ready to go and they don't have to spend time getting it ready. They can buy it and take it right to the river if they would like to.

Everyone has their own ideas about how to be comfortable and the amenities they need to do so. Again, you will have to take all of that into consideration to see what works for you on a personal level. You can always make modifications to the vehicle if you find that you have outgrown the services that it offers.

Don't be surprised if some of the best memories you have in your life are from this type of experience. It is a great chance to do something unique and even challenging. It can also allow you the opportunity to really appreciate the simple things in life once again.

Too often, we get wrapped up in technological devices, fancy clothes, and high dollar cars in our society. Being comfortable, living simple, and not having lots of bills piling up can sure help to reduce stress and give you peace of mind. It will certainly allow you to sleep better at night and to enjoy all that you have in your life to be thankful for!

Have fun with all of this and get what works for you. If you don't have the skills to make it all fall into place, don't worry. Go online and watch some videos that show you step by step how to do some of it. You can also get someone you know with specific skills to help. You can do something for them in trade if you don't have the money to pay them.

The amount of time you have to get this all done will also influence what you buy and what you create. If you want to get to the river next month,

then you either need something almost ready to go or you need to be able to dedicate time every day to getting it done.

If you plan well in advance though, you can turn it into a project you do in your extra time. Over the winter, you can tinker in the garage with the vehicle you purchased. Then, when it is spring or summer, you will be all done and able to take it down to the river and enjoy it!