

ROAD READY CASITA

FIRST ADVENTURE HANDBOOK

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Welcome to the fiberglass family! Pulling your new Casita home is an exciting milestone. Use this print-ready handbook to clear the fog, safely manage your maiden voyage, and acquire the exact gear you need without the guesswork.

1. DAY-ONE HANDOVER CHECKLIST

- ☐ **What You Need (Legal & Safe Towing)**
Properly sized 2-inch hitch ball, active trailer brake controller installed in tow vehicle, crossing safety chains, operational 7-way plug, and a robust coupler lock for instant driveway security.
- ☐ **What to Check (The Walk-Around)**
Verify all exterior hatches are locked, entry step is retracted, roof vent is cranked shut, windows are fully latched, and tire pressure (including the spare) is verified. Test turn signals, brake lights, and running lights.
- ☐ **What Most People Miss (Clearance & Inside)**
Watch vertical overhead clearance (low branches, gas awnings) and a wider turning radius. Inside, verify the refrigerator door is mechanically latched and all loose counter/cabinet items are fully locked down.

2. BEFORE YOUR FIRST TRIP: ROAD SAFETY

The Hitching Protocol

- ☐ **Drop & Lock Test**
Lower the coupler fully onto the ball, pin the latch, then jack the tongue up slightly to physically verify it is completely trapped and cannot pop off on the highway.
- ☐ **Cradle the Chains**
Cross your safety chains under the tongue to form a protective cradle. If the hitch ever fails, the tongue falls into the chains instead of digging into the road.
- ☐ **Breakaway Cable Connection**
Secure the emergency breakaway brake cable directly to the tow vehicle frame—never wrap it around the hitch ball or safety chains.

Weight Distribution & Balance

- ☐ **The 10% to 15% Rule**
Ensure 10-15% of your total loaded trailer weight rests squarely on the tongue (approx. 300–450 lbs for a typical loaded Casita) to totally prevent hazardous highway sway.
- ☐ **Low & Center Loading**
Pack your heaviest gear low down and directly over or slightly ahead of the single axle. Avoid putting heavy ice chests or toolkits at the extreme rear of the trailer.

THE SECOND LOOK RULE

After towing your first 20 to 30 miles, pull over in a safe rest area. Feel your trailer wheel hubs (warm is fine, hot means a bearing issue), verify your hitch latch pin, and quickly step inside to check for shifted cargo.

3. ARRIVING AT THE CAMPSITE: STEP-BY-STEP SETUP

- ☐ **Step 1: The Site Scout**
Step out of the vehicle and walk the site layout before backing in. Note low-hanging branches and check the exact placement of your utility hookups.
- ☐ **Step 2: Side-to-Side Leveling**
Position leveling blocks under the low-side tire. Pull onto them until perfectly level across, then immediately chock both sides of the trailer wheels.
- ☐ **Step 3: Unhitch & Front-to-Back Leveling**
Disconnect the umbilical, chains, and cable. Unlatch the ball, pull your vehicle forward, and use the tongue jack to level front-to-back. (Crucial: Your 3-way fridge requires precise leveling to operate safely).
- ☐ **Step 4: Secure the Stabilizer Jacks**
Crank down the rear stabilizers until they firmly anchor to the ground or block pads. Reminder: These are stabilizers to stop cabin rock, not jacks for lifting weight.

4. NON-NEGOTIABLE UTILITY GEAR

Sewer & Waste Management

- ☐ **Heavy-Duty 15' Sewer Hose**
Skip generic starter pack hoses. Buy a heavy-duty option (e.g., RhinoFLEX) with robust bayonet fittings to eliminate potential campground leaks.
- ☐ **Transparent 4-in-1 Adapter Elbow**
Tightly seals into the ground pipe. The clear plastic material is vital so you can visually verify when your tanks are running completely clean during a flush.
- ☐ **Accordion Hose Support**
Elevates your line and builds a reliable, gravity-assisted downward slope from the Casita's low waste outlets to the park drain hole.

Fresh Water System Protection

- ☐ **NSF-Certified Drinking Water Hose**
A dedicated white or blue drinking water line. Standard garden hoses leach harmful lead and foul plastic tastes into your water line.
- ☐ **Brass Water Pressure Regulator**
Screws straight onto the campsite spigot. Restricts spikes down to a safe 40–50 PSI, protecting your Casita’s internal PEX plumbing from bursting.
- ☐ **Inline Sediment Filter**
Attaches directly to your hose line to catch incoming sand, scale, rust particles, and chlorine flavors before they hit your holding tank.

Shore Power Management

- ☐ **30-Amp EMS / Surge Protector**
Monitors campground pedestals for unstable voltage, open grounds, or wiring faults. Protects your air conditioner and converters from frying.
- ☐ **30-to-15 Amp Dogbone Adapter**
Allows you to plug your heavy 30-amp shore cord straight into a classic household wall outlet. Ideal for running the fridge or charging batteries in your home driveway.

If this handbook helped you, please share it with another new Casita owner.

RoadReadyCampers.com/My-Casita

Your Road to Adventure Starts Here.