
















Caravan Age Timeline

The Approximate age of a caravan can be gauged using the following details;






1960 Features

-  Late 1960s – Labcraft invented fluorescent lights for caravans using 12v power source.
-  Gas cylinders carried on an open rack on the drawbar.
-  Water jugs became redundant as manual pumps appeared.
-  Trackway for an awning not often fitted

1970 Features








-  Drawbar-mounted locker boxes appeared in the late 1970s for the gas cylinders.
-  1972 More caravans sold than ever before (67,000 tourers), due to the threat of purchase tax, forerunner of VAT.
-  Gas lamps continued alongside fluorescent lights until the mid 1970s.
-  Chassis like Peak, B&B, and CI were heavy and needed painting and employed springs and shock absorbers.
-  Reversing on the over-ride system required someone to engage the clip behind the coupling when reversing started.
-  Water pumps remained as manual units.
-  Body made around framework, clad in aluminium sheet and lined inside with ply wood.
-  Insulation modest. Floors usually un-insulated; wall voids filled with glass fibre quilt or polystyrene panels.
-  In 1978, the use of non-safety glass became illegal. Aluminium frames went and acrylic double glazed windows appeared.
-  Post October 1979 all caravans had to have a rear fog lamp.
-  The need for a fog lamp feed led to the introduction of the double socket system with the tow car.

1980 Features









-  Bonded sandwiched floors introduced at the start of the decade; bonded walls followed.
-  Lightweight galvanised chassis introduced, particularly from Al-CO who took over B&B chassis.
-  Automatic brake disengagement mechanisms fitted into drums.
-  Rubber suspension replaced with coil springing on the lightweight chassis systems.
-  From early 1980s so many electrical items developed that fused distribution panels were introduced.



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-  Separate inboard 12v batteries commonplace for the increase in low wattage appliances.
-  Electric water pumping became standard.
-  Wedge shaped designs arrived in the mid 1980s for improved petrol economy.
-  From 1985, most caravans had an integral gas locker box rather than a drawbar 'add-on'.
-  In April 1989, auto reverse brakes made mandatory.
-  Mid 1980 saw many hot water systems installed.
-  The cassette Toilet in the late 1980s revolutionised the bathroom and emptying arrangements.

1990 Features

-  Fire retardant foams mandatory on all cushions.
-  Fire alarms introduced.
-  Ripple finish used for most bonded sandwich walls lost favour with some manufacturers; smooth finishes returned.
-  Almost all caravans wired for mains as standard.
-  Low voltage fused distribution panels less like Concorde flight deck and more discreet.
-  Internal creature comforts reached unprecedented levels.
-  Separate lockers for gas and battery.
-  Sealed bearing systems e.g. Euro-axle.

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