

Entering the USA with an RV: checklist

For Canadians heading south, including the trip home. Details are in our guide to crossing the border into the USA.

Date: _____ Crossing: _____ Travellers: _____

Before you leave

- ☐ Passport, NEXUS or FAST card, or enhanced driver's licence, valid for your whole stay
- ☐ Children's consent letters and custody papers, if it applies
- ☐ Vehicle registration and proof of insurance, with U.S. coverage confirmed in writing
- ☐ Travel medical insurance for everyone
- ☐ Rental agreement that allows travel into the USA, or lender permission
- ☐ Dogs: CDC Dog Import Form receipt, microchip, at least 6 months old. Cats: healthy; check state rules
- ☐ Staying 30 days or more? Plan your I-94 or USCIS registration (Form G-325R); NEXUS admissions count as registered. Keep a log of your days

Pack and declare

- ☐ Declare all food, plants, and pet food
- ☐ No citrus fruit; no firewood; meat no more than 50 lb; poultry subject to current restrictions
- ☐ Alcohol: up to 1 L if you are 21 or older
- ☐ Tobacco: 200 cigarettes, or 50 cigars, or 2 kg smoking tobacco; gifts up to US\$100
- ☐ No cannabis, even if it is legal where you are going
- ☐ No firearms or ammunition (ATF Form 6NIA needed for hunting or sport); sprays declared
- ☐ More than US\$10,000 in currency reported

At the border, and on the way home

- ☐ Wait times checked (CBP) and a morning crossing planned
- ☐ Documents ready; answer honestly; declare when unsure
- ☐ Keep receipts for everything you buy and every repair
- ☐ Back in Canada, declare purchases and RV repairs or parts
- ☐ Exemptions: 24 h = C\$200, no alcohol or tobacco; 48 h or 7 days = C\$800; they cannot be combined
- ☐ No cannabis back into Canada; declare any firearms

Official sources: U.S. Customs and Border Protection (cbp.gov), border wait times (bwt.cbp.gov), I-94 (i94.cbp.dhs.gov), USCIS registration (uscis.gov/alienregistration), USDA (aphis.usda.gov), CDC dogs (cdc.gov/importation/dogs), CBSA returning residents (cbsa-asfc.gc.ca).

Last updated September 2026. Rules, fees, and limits change, so confirm anything that matters to you on the official sites above before you travel.