

# A CHECKLIST FOR EVALUATING AN ORIGINAL H-BODY

*Part 1*  
by Larry S.

I consider all the asked-for information very important for maximum benefit. The checklist should be filled out as completely as possible.

If the would-be seller will not let you make this searching check of his vehicle, I would consider the unit suspect and that he is apparently trying to cover something up.

After using, then analyzing this checklist data to evaluate the motorhome that you are trying to buy, you should be much better informed about its condition and have some idea of what you will have to do in order to make it into what you are after. In other words, you will make a more informed decision.

If I would have used such a list when bought my first 3.8 Phasar/Olds, I definitely would not have spent over \$6,000 on a vehicle whose rear spring hangers, with spring, soon penetrated the rear floor. Once I discovered this and other dangerous problems, I immediately grounded my conversion, never to be used again. I blame myself for buying it before evaluating it more aggressively and I blame the seller for knowingly selling a unit that should have been junked.

Larry S,

# BEFORE BUYING CHECKLIST: Part 1

Present Owners Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## LS Information---

Year,                      Model,                      Series  
| \_\_\_\_\_ | \_\_\_\_\_ | \_\_\_\_\_

Engine Type, Gas \_\_\_\_\_ Diesel? \_\_\_\_\_ NA \_\_\_\_\_ Turbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Engine miles \_\_\_\_\_  
Engine size \_\_\_\_\_ Oil pressure OK? \_\_\_\_\_ Running Temp reading? \_\_\_\_\_  
Runs well when Cold \_\_\_\_\_ Hot \_\_\_\_\_  
Batteries condition and age, Engine \_\_\_\_\_ Coach \_\_\_\_\_

Type transmission  
Automatic? \_\_\_\_\_ 4 or 5 speed manual? \_\_\_\_\_  
Transmission shifts OK \_\_\_\_\_ Final drive leaks \_\_\_\_\_

Is H-body VIN on Dash? VIN \_\_\_\_\_  
Are the H-Body Operators and Service Manuals going with the sale? \_\_\_\_\_  
Is the Winnebago Vehicle Certification glued to driver's door \_\_\_\_\_  
Does it's information match the dash VIN? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Brakes  
Brake Master Cylinder condition, leaking \_\_\_\_\_  
Front brakes condition \_\_\_\_\_  
Rear brakes condition \_\_\_\_\_  
Hand brake condition, does it hold \_\_\_\_\_

Ignition Switch: Original H-Body \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_  
Ignition key available \_\_\_\_\_ Extra set? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
Dash idiot lights come on with key \_\_\_\_\_ go out when running \_\_\_\_\_  
Heater work \_\_\_\_\_ heater fan work \_\_\_\_\_  
Is fuel gage functional? \_\_\_\_\_ Accurate? \_\_\_\_\_  
Fuel tank: Original H-body 15.5 gal \_\_\_ Oversized \_\_\_ gal cap. \_\_\_\_\_

Notes:

---

---

---

---

---

---

Below is a continuation of the Motor Home checklist and can be used for all models to evaluate the body.

LS

---

## Vehicle Body Evaluation Check-List: Part 2

**Overall:** Rust: Mild \_\_\_ Medium (repairable) \_\_\_ Heavy = junk) \_\_\_\_\_  
Paint condition \_\_\_\_\_ Body Damage and where? \_\_\_\_\_  
mild? \_\_\_\_\_ severe? \_\_\_\_\_ Valance condition and rust \_\_\_\_\_  
Decals/Stripes \_\_\_\_\_

### Exterior lighting:

All exterior lighting by position and function: ( ) = number of bulbs

#### Fronts lights

Head lights (2) \_\_\_ Front park (4) \_\_\_\_\_  
Front marker (2 on some early mods) \_\_\_ Front turn signals R(2)\_\_\_ L(2) \_\_\_  
Upper clearance (5), R alcove (1) \_\_\_\_, L alcove(1)\_\_\_\_,  
Three above windshield R \_\_\_\_\_ L \_\_\_\_\_ Center \_\_\_\_\_

#### Rear lights

Tail lights / lic. Lights (8) \_\_\_\_\_ Brake/Stoplight (4) \_\_\_\_\_  
Rear turn signal lights (4) R \_\_\_\_\_ L \_\_\_\_\_ Rear markers (2) R \_\_\_\_\_ L \_\_\_\_\_  
Rear top clearance lights (5) \_\_\_\_\_  
Are the light lens and assemblies cracked, missing fasteners, broken,  
damaged? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Exterior Security:

Locks: Doors (3) \_\_\_ key? \_\_\_ Trunk (2) \_\_\_ key? \_\_\_ Gas cap \_\_\_ key? \_\_\_  
Water-fill lock \_\_\_ key? \_\_\_ Are all keys available? \_\_\_\_\_  
Work in locks? \_\_\_\_\_ Extra set? \_\_\_\_\_  
Compliance Items: Signs, Plates and Decals  
Fuel type and warning \_\_\_\_\_ High-voltage warning decal? \_\_\_\_\_  
Fire hazard warnings? \_\_\_\_\_ Liquid Petroleum (LP) Warnings \_\_\_\_\_  
Towing/wt., payload wt. plate (wt, spec.) \_\_\_\_\_  
Seatbelt warning for rear coach seats \_\_\_\_\_

### Interior:

Front/dash: Air and Heater: Dash heater operation? \_\_\_\_\_  
3 Control knobs on heat control / functional? \_\_\_\_\_  
A/C controls installed? \_\_\_ Function \_\_\_\_\_ Air conditioning work? \_\_\_\_\_  
Coach Auto Heater operation \_\_\_\_\_  
Windows: Winders work? \_\_\_\_\_ All glass for cracks \_\_\_\_\_

Rock damage to windshield \_\_\_\_\_  
Wiper blades for presence and condition \_\_\_\_\_  
Condition and appearance of windshield gasket \_\_\_\_\_  
Corners raised? \_\_\_\_\_ Evidence of rust around windshield frame \_\_\_\_\_  
Rust at rain drip rail above doors \_\_\_\_\_  
Condition of front Window Lifts \_\_\_\_\_ Door Locks \_\_\_\_\_ Keys? \_\_\_\_\_

### **Coach Interior:**

Coach door, Lock \_\_\_\_\_ Latches \_\_\_\_\_ Handles \_\_\_\_\_ Cranks \_\_\_\_\_ Knobs \_\_\_\_\_  
Screen and frame condition \_\_\_\_\_ Integrity \_\_\_\_\_  
Seats and Couches for condition, \_\_\_\_\_ ease of folding \_\_\_\_\_  
Seat Belts? (2) \_\_\_\_\_ Condition \_\_\_\_\_  
Carpet: Damage? \_\_\_\_\_ Stains? \_\_\_\_\_ Odor? \_\_\_\_\_  
Ceiling: Evidence of Leaking \_\_\_\_\_ Where? \_\_\_\_\_ Taped? \_\_\_\_\_  
Is Ceiling exfoliating? \_\_\_\_\_ discolored \_\_\_\_\_ Sagging \_\_\_\_\_  
Dining Table and support \_\_\_\_\_ condition \_\_\_\_\_  
Roof Air installed yes \_\_\_ no \_\_\_ Operate? \_\_\_\_\_ Knobs and decals \_\_\_\_\_  
broken deflectors? \_\_\_\_\_

### **Galley**

Cook top operation \_\_\_\_\_ Fridge type DC? \_\_\_\_\_ 3way? \_\_\_\_\_  
Function on DC \_\_\_ or 3- way AC \_\_\_ DC \_\_\_ LP Gas \_\_\_\_\_  
Sink condition? \_\_\_\_\_ Cover in place? \_\_\_\_\_ All faucets? \_\_\_\_\_

### **Interior Control panel:**

Condition \_\_\_\_\_ Switches work \_\_\_\_\_ Clock work? \_\_\_\_\_ Alarm \_\_\_\_\_  
Interior lighting - all bulbs, switches, and fixtures \_\_\_\_\_  
Water press pump operation \_\_\_\_\_ cycling? \_\_\_\_\_  
Tank capacity lights/gage. Water \_\_\_\_\_ Sewage \_\_\_\_\_ LP \_\_\_\_\_  
TV antenna-condition \_\_\_\_\_ Roof vent \_\_\_\_\_ Powered? \_\_\_\_\_  
Fan run OK? \_\_\_\_\_ Vent Opens? \_\_\_\_\_

### **Utilities:**

Shower pan and cover \_\_\_\_\_ Dump valves and covers (2) \_\_\_\_\_  
Functioning Drains? \_\_\_\_\_ Commode work? \_\_\_\_\_ flush/fill? \_\_\_\_\_  
Motor Aid heater function \_\_\_\_\_ Operate on shore power? \_\_\_\_\_  
Operate on Engine coolant connections \_\_\_\_\_ Switch condition \_\_\_\_\_  
Gravity drains (3) \_\_\_\_\_ Heater drain (1) \_\_\_\_\_ Function? \_\_\_\_\_  
Leaking \_\_\_\_\_  
Generator  
On-Board Generator installed? \_\_\_\_\_ Start and run? \_\_\_\_\_

Power adequate for Roof air? \_\_\_\_\_ Oil level? \_\_\_\_\_ Oil clean? \_\_\_\_\_  
Proper ventilated compartment door? \_\_\_\_\_ Gen. Tank installed? \_\_\_\_\_  
Noise \_\_\_\_\_ Smell exhaust from inside \_\_\_\_\_ tail pipe present \_\_\_\_\_  
condition \_\_\_\_\_

**LP Gas:**

Check LP tank. \_\_\_\_\_ appearance \_\_\_\_\_ rust? \_\_\_\_\_ % full \_\_\_\_\_  
Gage work? \_\_\_\_\_ Evidence of damage \_\_\_\_\_  
Leak down gage work? \_\_\_\_\_

**Underbody Check:**

Mirror check of underbody \_\_\_\_\_  
Mud flaps in place? \_\_\_\_\_ Underbody painted \_\_\_\_\_  
Frame and spring area for heavy rust or hole through at rear spring front  
hangers \_\_\_\_\_  
Rear spring rear shackles and attachment to frame (two bolts) each side  
\_\_\_\_\_

Frame Rust at holding tank? \_\_\_\_\_  
Rust in area to rear of rear wheels \_\_\_\_\_ How much? \_\_\_\_\_  
Light to medium (Repairable?) \_\_\_\_\_  
Heavy with hole through. JUNK, not repairable \_\_\_\_\_  
Heavy rust at "drop-down" under vehicle below coach door? \_\_\_\_\_  
Rust at shock towers, front frame, under door panels \_\_\_ hood support  
crossmember area \_\_\_\_\_ Area of battery support and carrier \_\_\_\_\_  
Below battery at frame to, ground cable attach point \_\_\_\_\_  
Valances \_\_\_\_\_

**TIRES:**

Tire size \_\_X\_\_X\_\_ Code? C \_\_ D \_\_ Ply rating \_\_\_\_\_ age code \_\_\_\_\_  
Adequate tread? \_\_\_\_\_  
Condition by tire:  
RF \_\_\_\_\_ LF \_\_\_\_\_ LR \_\_\_\_\_ RR \_\_\_\_\_  
Evidence of tire dry-rot? \_\_\_\_\_  
Cracks in sidewalls and around inner beads? \_\_\_\_\_  
Valve stems cracked? \_\_\_\_\_ Capped \_\_\_\_\_  
Bumps, bulges \_\_\_\_\_. Tread depth / wear strip? \_\_\_\_\_  
Condition of wheels - such as cracks \_\_\_\_\_ heavy rust \_\_\_\_\_  
Corrosion \_\_\_\_\_ distended lug nut holes \_\_\_\_\_ correct lug nuts \_\_\_\_\_  
Rim damage \_\_\_\_\_ Matched tire sizes \_\_\_\_\_

Other noted conditions

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Larry Schoppe  
Fairborn OH  
45324

Prepared by:

Larry S. Aug. 2010  
Updated with permission for originals  
Rick H. April 2011

