# The Ultimate Van Conversion Checklist

Your friendly guide to turning your van into your dream home on wheels.

# 1 Getting Started — The Big Plan

### Step 1: Dream Big and Set Your Goals

- Decide your van's purpose: Full-time living, weekend getaways, or occasional trips.
- Think about who will travel with you: Solo, partner, family, or pets.
- Make a list of your favorite activities: Work, hiking, surfing, relaxing.
- Consider climates you'll travel to: Cold, hot, or all-weather comfort.

### Step 2: Find Your Perfect Van

- Choose a van size: Small (easy parking), medium (good balance), or large (spacious).
- Check van condition: Look carefully for rust, low mileage, and mechanical reliability.
- Pick your drive type: 2-wheel drive for roads, 4-wheel drive for adventures.
- Set a realistic budget: Include purchase, conversion costs, and unexpected expenses.

### Step 3: Budget Wisely

- Research van prices and insurance costs.
- List conversion materials: Insulation, wood, electrical parts, appliances.
- Include tools you'll need: Drill, saw, measuring tape, screwdriver set.
- Add a buffer for surprises: Plan an extra 10–20% for unexpected costs.

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# 2 Designing & Building Your Space

### Step 4: Sketch Your Dream Layout

- Create a mood board with van styles you love (Pinterest helps!).
- Draw a simple layout plan: Bed location, kitchen setup, storage ideas.
- Plan your "zones": Sleeping area, kitchen, workspace, storage compartments.
- Double-check measurements: Length, width, height, and wheel-well placements.

### Step 5: Insulation & Ventilation

- Choose insulation material: Reflective bubble wrap, foam boards, or sheep wool.
- Install roof vents or fans for fresh air flow.
- Find and seal spots where heat or cold air could sneak through (thermal bridges).
- Test your insulation before final wall coverings: Feel for drafts or cold spots.

### Step 6: Electricity Made Easy

- List your power needs: Lights, fridge, fan, chargers, and any extras.
- Select battery type: Lithium (lighter, lasts longer) or traditional lead-acid.
- Plan solar panels: Consider at least 200 watts for basic needs, more if heavy use.
- Sketch your wiring plan: Mark locations for batteries, inverter, fuse box, and outlets.

### Step 7: Plumbing & Water Setup

- Decide water storage size: Freshwater tank (10–30 gallons), greywater tank (5–10 gallons).
- Choose your pump system: Electric (automatic) or manual (simple, no electricity needed).
- Plan fixtures: Compact sink, outdoor or indoor shower, and toilet options.
- Check for easy water filling and draining locations in your design.

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# 3 Comfort, Safety & Final Checks

### Step 8: Heating & Cooling Comfort

- Select your heating option: Diesel heater (efficient, warm), propane heater (easy, portable).
- Choose cooling solutions: Roof fan for airflow, portable air conditioning for hot climates.
- Reinforce insulation around doors, windows, and roof for better climate control.
- Test your comfort levels: Run heater and fans before finalizing your setup.

### Step 9: Furniture & Smart Storage

- Choose your bed type: Fixed (always ready), foldable (space saver), convertible (multi-use).
- Plan your kitchen layout: Countertop space, portable or built-in stove, fridge or cooler.
- Install storage: Overhead cabinets, under-bed drawers, and clever hideaways.
- Check everything for secure attachment: Avoid movement during drives.

### Step 10: Safety Checks & Legal Considerations

- Install safety equipment: Fire extinguisher, carbon monoxide detector, smoke alarm.
- Review local laws: Check rules for vehicle modifications and parking regulations.
- Update your insurance: Ensure your policy covers your converted van and belongings.
- Conduct a thorough safety check: Inspect electrical wiring, plumbing, and appliances carefully.

### Step 11: Test Your Van & Adjust

- Take a short weekend trip: Test cooking, sleeping, water system, and electricity.
- Create a feedback list: Note what's perfect and what needs fixing.
- Make necessary adjustments: Improve comfort, fix small problems, and enhance usability.
- Do a final test run: Confirm all fixes, then get ready for longer adventures!

Congratulations! You're now ready to enjoy your custom-built van home. Remember, every van conversion is unique—just like you. Enjoy your adventures!

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