

GENERAL AND BASIC OPERATIONAL INSTRUCTIONS VINTAGE VAN ADVENTURES, MECC INC.

BASIC VAN OPERATIONS GUIDELINES & INSTRUCTIONS

The Van -- Sit in the right hand seat, in the front of the Van and as you face towards the front of the Van. Welcome; you are now in the driver's seat! And that big wheel in front of you is the steering wheel. It is positioned like no other vehicle you might have driven. It is cool and the visibility is great. It is fantastic.

While all vans are similar, they are not all alike nor have the exact same features. Some are automatic, others are standard shift. Some have air conditioning while others have a storage space in place of the AC. Some have an auxiliary battery for all accessories, others only have a main battery. But generically they are same, but with different names and personalities.

Let's review the mechanics and operation of the main vehicle. Remember it is 25 to 35 years old so please treat it nicely and generally slowly. 60 to 65 mph is max on these rare vessels of the '60s and 70's. And so are the '80 models.

Site Set Up - Pick your van site carefully. Where you park and how you park matters. Of course you want a great view, facing out of the wind. Most importantly pick the most level van set up location you can. You want it level and not sloping too much. While it sounds easy, it is very hard to find that perfect level van site. And consider your camp site set up with rain shelter, picnic table, camp fire, chairs and table. Outside kitchen set up is paramount to a good stay and keeping things dry. Tie things down. It may look like a gorgeous day when you go off for your hike, but the rain and winds always come up eventually. Keep things covered and tied down whenever possible. Once you are set up as you like it, take a couple of selfies and panoramic shots too. Then cheese and wine it while you rest and enjoy the outdoors. You have arrived!

Seat Adjustments -- On the outside edge of each seat, near the bottom is a small arm to adjust the seat forward and back. Please be really gentle as you pull up to slide the seat. Release it when you like the position. There is another little black arm that adjusts the tilt of the seat. On the driver's side this second arm is on the right side of the seat.

Privacy -- Vehicles may have two devices installed. One is a GPS tracker and the other is a dash cam. Don't run in the front of the Van without clothes otherwise you might find yourself on YouTube (again!?). Other than that, you should have all the remaining privacy in the world.

Doors -- All the doors only need to be closed firmly and solidly. Slamming them does not help and will most likely jam the back hatch and slider especially. You also run the risk of breaking off the side handle.

To open the side door, pull down and back on the handle. The door should slide easily to its open hold position. To close, lightly push the handle down and slide it forward. It works best to slide it with your hands off the handle and placed on the door. Move it forward and it might help to gently, very gently push in as it slides forward. You should hear it latch and the door should be flush with the Van sides.

The back hatch should almost close itself. Check it by tugging on it. If it jiggles or moves, it is not closed all the way. Re-open and shut again.

Tired Feet! -- Check the van's feet (tires) to make sure they are not low or flat. You should be comfortable changing a tire and checking fluids, especially if you find yourself in remote areas. The spare is under the front of vehicle. The tire must be "turned down" to get at it.

Jack Up -- The spare tire jacking tools are found under the back seat. VW's must only be jacked up at the four jacking points; one behind the front tires, the other in front of the back tires. Generally, get the jack in place, begin jacking just until Van lifts a little. Then loosen the lug nuts on the foot needing repair. Once all bolts loosened, continue jacking until foot is entirely off ground and there is room to put the spare on.

Before lowering jack, place and tighten all bolts in an opposing sequence. Do not tighten one bolt then another. First, go around and tighten lug nuts loosely until all nuts are firm. Then begin to tighten nuts in a cross opposing pattern to ensure an even tightness.

Once the spare is on, replace the damaged tire in the spare carrier and lower the jack. When the opportunity arises, get the spare repaired if it can easily be plugged.

Battery -- The battery is 12 volt DC. The main battery is found under the passenger seat under a flap. It may have set screws holding the cover plate. Some vehicles may have an additional accessory only battery. This battery is usually behind the driver's seat under the flap. It too may have set screws holding the cover plate securely. Make sure the battery switch on the face of the stove/sink is turned off, otherwise you will drain the battery and the Van will not start if there is only one battery. If the Van has two batteries the main battery should not get run down.

Gasoline -- Please use medium and premium grade gasoline. The tank holds-16 gallons of premium petrol. The fill-up is on the passenger side and usually requires a separate key to open the tank. We suggest leaving the key in the gas cover during fillup so you cannot drive away from the gas station and forget the cap.

Oil -- Check after each gas up or at least every 300 miles. The dip stick is behind the back license plate. Simply pull the top of the license toward you and it hinges open. Pull the dip stick, wipe off with a clean cloth, reinsert stick all the way then pull out again. You should see an oil line between two marks - high and low. If not, please add 5-30 Mobil 1 oil, not more than a quart. If

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it takes a quart and there is still no sign of oil between the marks, stop and call us immediately. We've got serious trouble. See engine below for oil fill-up.

Coolant - The coolant reserve is under the back storage area, in the engine compartment on the right. It takes antifreeze, not water. In an emergency, water can be used but it has to be clean with no sediment. See engine below for coolant filling.

Engine -- Obviously, the engine is in the rear under ½ of the bed mattress (cargo area). Access is gained by emptying the back cargo area and then removing the engine cover plate. But, you should not do anything with the engine unless there is an emergency of some type. On some models the cover has to be removed to add coolant and to add oil.

Transmission -- Vans come in automatic and standard. Automatics require no introduction, we think! Standards are four speed and reverse. The pattern is clearly marked on the knob of the shifting level on the floor, between the two seats and up forward near the dash. It is usually an "H" pattern for the forward gears. Reverse is farther to the left and up. The left pedal is the clutch pedal, the middle pedal is the brake and the right pedal is the accelerator. Don't mix them up or you're probably in trouble!

If you have not been trained on a standard, you are not authorized to drive the Van and are in violation of the Terms and Condition.

Wipers/Washer -- Wipers are required by law to be on when raining. Lights must be turned on too.

Front washer fill up is under the mat on the driver's side. If so equipped with a back wiper, the back fill up is in the back cargo area on the right passenger side. The washer/wiper control is generally found on the right side of the steering wheel. To wash, pull the lever, lightly, towards you and the wash will spray. Move level up for regular speed, up one more level for fast. Move down from middle (neutral) for intermittent. If there is a back wiper, push the control arm in for the back washer.

Exterior Lights -- Generally, in New England the law requires you to turn your lights on in the daylight if it is raining. There is no automatic lights off on these vintage vans so please make sure you always turn the light switch off, otherwise it will drain the battery and won't start. Make sure any and all interior lights are also turned off. The main headlight switch is on the left and it is a toggle switch. If you look closely, when the switch is on, there is a little dash light above the tachometer. High beams are turned on by gently pulling the left toggle arm back. There is a very faint blue light that comes on that shows high beams are on! Faint it is too. At night you can see it better of course.

Emergency Brake -- You may be used to a modern vehicle and probably almost never use the emergency brake. On the Vans, please use them otherwise the Van may roll away. Of course don't forget to unset the emergency brake. This brake is next to the driver's seat on the right hand side of the seat down on the floor. Press in the button and guide the lever down to the floor for off brake on is pulled up.

Popup Tent -- Popup canvas is expensive to replace; ~\$1,000 including labor, so let's be careful while we have fun. To open stand inside facing the front. At about eye level is the pop top lever. Grasp both sides of the latch with each hand and squeeze by pulling your fingers towards you. You will hear a solid click. Then grab the center leverage bar and gently push forward and up until you hear/see it lock forward. Then flip the top section of the bunk towards you. It hinges towards the front of the van.

It is extremely important to take your time being careful when closing the Van pop up. Lower the top by pulling the arm so it begins to close. Let the top down slowly paying close attention to the canvas. Lightly pull the canvas in but do not let it get caught in the hinges. Be especially careful not to let the canvas get caught between the latch. This is where most newbies damage the canvas. Just take your time adjust the canvas in lay nicely inside. Before pulling the latch down tight, please check outside to ensure no canvas is sticking out of the top sides. If some is outside, gently pull it inside and/or tuck the canvas up from the outside so it is not pinched. Once the canvas is cleared, grasp the latch and pulled down with both hands until you hear a solid click. Make sure the pop top latch is secure, otherwise it may blow up, off and away when you drive! That would be a real bummer and create an unauthorized convertible.

Outside Caps -- There are 3 outside black caps. These provide access to pressurized water, direct 110 V electric hookup and a water tank filler cap.

If you are at an organized camp site that supplies water, you can hook up a hose directly to this for pressurized water to the sink. The direct electrical hookup takes a normal but heavy duty (12 gauge) extension cord. Power will then be available via the wall plug just ahead of the back seat.

The water tank filler cap lets you fill up the 10 gallon onboard storage tank.

Propane -- Propane tank is located underneath the Van behind the driver's door. Turn the valve off at this outside valve when you are traveling. Also make sure the stove dial is set to off as well. When you settle in for the day or night, turn the valve back on and again make sure the inside stove knobs are turned off. Same with the fridge.

Stove -- Start the stove by first making sure the outside propane is turned on. Then, turn the stove dial on for one burner. If needed, once that burner is working properly, turn the other burner on. It should click and light. The stove only works on propane and has no alternate heat/power sources.

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Fridge -- The original fridges work sort of okay. They will not keep an ice cream sandwich frozen, or more importantly your beer cold. They are also small. They are a glorified cooler even when new. That is one reason we supply a bigger cooler for you to store food and the all-important beer and wine.

The fridge runs on three sources - propane, battery or electricity. If available always use electricity by plugging in the outside power cord and selecting electricity on the fridge. When traveling use battery power. When at site, use propane if there is no outside electricity. You can use the battery but this will drain the batter and the Van will/may not start.

Sink -- Once the onboard tank is filled, water is available at the sink by turning the knob on. It is important to turn this knob off too. Some people forgot, drove off and flooded the sink and Van.

Seating -- The two front seats swivel 360°. Simply pull on the lever located at the front of each seat and turn the seat to the desired position. The seat may have to be slid far forward before it will swivel all the way. Swivel them to the center facing each other and you have a nice little setting. The table behind the driver's seat easily swivels to the front and between these two seats making a little table. Pretty cool we think.

Table -- There are two inside Van tables. Each has a large knob to loosen/tighten the base so the bar can turn. Each table has an additional knob under the table which allows the table itself to swivel within the table post. Don't over tighten any knobs; this will cause them to bind and break. All tables should be tightened and secured in there storage position during travel.

Storage -- There are several different storage compartments for your convenience. There is also a closet in most Vans to place hanging clothes. We provide three plastic hangers. For some Vans without an AC unit, there is storage above the bottom bunk in the ceiling.