

The background of the top half of the page is a scenic photograph of a long, multi-arched concrete bridge spanning a deep blue bay. The bridge is flanked by steep, green hills. A white caravan is visible driving across the bridge. The water below is a vibrant blue with white foam from the waves crashing against the rocks at the base of the bridge.

Stop Leaks Before They Start: CARAVAN SEAL MAINTENANCE THAT PROTECTS YOUR PRIDE AND JOY

BROUGHT TO YOU BY LET'S GO CARAVAN INSURANCE.



At Let's Go Caravan Insurance, we know how much time, love and hard-earned money goes into owning a caravan. For many Australians, their van is more than just a vehicle — it's a holiday home, a retreat, and the centrepiece of countless memories on the open road. That's why protecting it is about more than just having an insurance policy.

One of the most common (and preventable) issues we see in our claims is water ingress caused by worn or damaged seals. Left unchecked, even a small leak can lead to rot, mould, electrical faults, and repair bills that run into the thousands. Worse still, if insurers assess the cause as lack of maintenance, parts of the claim may not be covered.

This is why we think it's so important to talk openly about seal maintenance. To bring you the best advice, we've tapped into our trusted repairer network and asked **Adam Twist, General Manager of Suncoast Caravan Service**, to share his expertise.

Meet our expert partner

Suncoast Caravan Service is a family-owned and operated business that has proudly served the Sunshine Coast and the wider caravanning community for more than 48 years. Their workshop is renowned for its expertise in caravan servicing and repairs, their retail shop is packed with quality parts and accessories, and their customer care is second to none. As one of our long-standing repair partners, Suncoast has helped hundreds of our insured customers get back on the road quickly and with peace of mind. Their motto is simple: quality, care, and connection.

Our message to Let's Go Caravan Insurance customers

We strongly encourage every insured customer — whether you're new to caravanning or a seasoned traveller — to take some time this season to give your van's seals the attention they deserve. Think of it as routine health care for your caravan: a small investment of time that can prevent major headaches later. With Adam's help, we've pulled together 10 practical steps that every caravan owner can follow to stop leaks before they start.

10 PRACTICAL STEPS TO STOP LEAKS BEFORE THEY START

1. Do a seal “walk-around” every 3 months

Every few months, take a slow lap around your caravan. Look closely at roof mouldings, corner joints, awning rails, antennas, solar mounts and any other fittings. Are there cracks, lifted edges or chalky surfaces from UV damage? If you see issues, don't just mask them — the fitting or fixture usually needs to be removed, cleaned, and resealed.

2. Give windows, doors & hatches the finger-press test

Gently press the silicone or foam tape around frames. If it feels brittle, flakes off, or lifts away, it's time for a replacement. While you're there, check hinges shut flush and clear out weep holes to make sure rainwater drains as it should.

3. Service roof accessories annually

Air-conditioners, satellite dishes and roof vents are notorious leak “hot spots.” Have them inspected once a year — ideally at the same time you book your annual mechanical service. Spotting cracked housings or perished seals early can save you a world of damage later.

4. Maintain plumbing lines & silicone inside

Leaks don't only come from the outside. Tighten hose clamps

beneath sinks and around fillers, check hot-water systems for drips, and reseal your shower cubicle as needed. Keep an eye out for unexplained stains or “high tide” marks on walls or cabinetry — these can be signs of hidden leaks pooling beneath surfaces.

5. Keep it breathing

Moisture loves a closed caravan. Fit floor-level and roof-level vents, crack a window during storage, and consider using a small dehumidifier in humid climates. If you can store your van under cover, even better — it all helps keep the air moving and the damp away.

6. Store smart

If possible, park under a carport or shelter. If you use a cover, make sure it's breathable and fits snugly so it won't flap and rub during storms. Avoid tarps that trap moisture — they can cause more harm than good by creating a perfect environment for mould.

7. Clean & “polish” the roof

Leaf litter, dirt and UV light all take a toll. Wash the roof after each trip, inspect screw caps, and finish with a protective wax or wash that includes wax to slow UV damage. Never use harsh truck wash, and always use

a soft, non-scratch brush. Washing and drying your caravan isn't just cosmetic — it's the perfect chance to spot early signs of broken seals.

8. Log your inspections

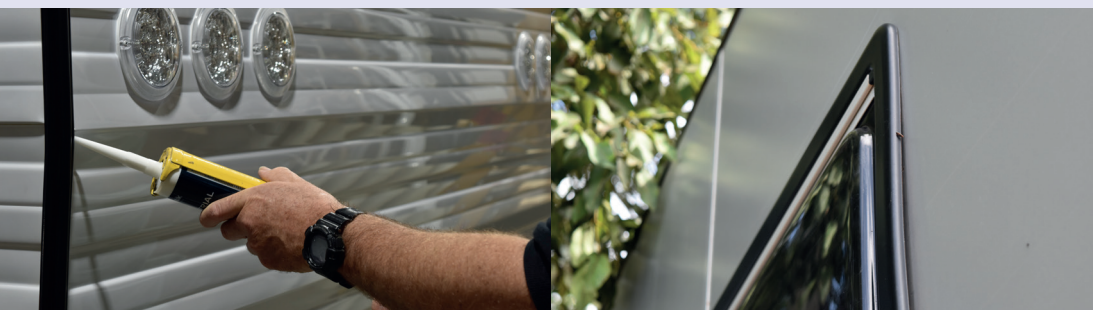
A photo library of your checks can be invaluable. Not only will it give you a clear reference if damage occurs, but receipts and records also provide strong evidence of maintenance if a claim is ever questioned.

9. Book a professional seal inspection at every service

Ask your service centre to complete a visual inspection of seals at each mechanical service. Having a professional assessment on file every year provides extra assurance and documentation.

10. Act fast if you spot signs

Musty smells, soft wall panels, bubbling vinyl, cracks in internal wall ply or even ants finding their way in — all of these can indicate hidden leaks. A quick reseal may cost a few hundred dollars, but delaying repairs can quickly escalate into extensive damage. Insurers may consider it wear-and-tear if left too long, reducing cover.



The key takeaway

A 30-minute inspection a few times a year is the simplest, most cost-effective way to defend your caravan against one of the most expensive types of damage. Set a reminder, create a checklist, and keep records.

Not only will this help keep you road-ready, it will protect your insurance cover and preserve your van's resale value when the time comes.

Final word from Let's Go Caravan Insurance. We're passionate about

protecting our customers' caravans — not just when things go wrong, but also by helping you avoid problems in the first place. By sharing expert insights from our repairer network, we aim to empower you to take small, practical steps that safeguard your investment.

So, before you set off on your next adventure, take half an hour to give your seals the attention they deserve. It's one of the best ways to protect your pride and joy, and to make sure your insurance

policy is there for the big things, not the preventable ones.

We strongly encourage you to follow all of the recommended steps above. Together, they form a simple but powerful routine that will keep your caravan watertight, safe, and ready for the open road.

At Let's Go Caravan Insurance, we're with you for the long haul — supporting your journeys, your lifestyle, and your caravan.