

DIY Van Build



Van Water System - Leak Test Checklist

Whether you're building out your van's plumbing system for the very first time or trying to trouble-shoot a leak in your van's plumbing system, this is a practical, step-by-step approach that'll ensure that your system is ready for the road.

Step One - Prep

- Fill fresh tank $\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ full.
- Place towels/paper towels under all fittings, pump, heater, and joints.
- Keep a flashlight, mirror/phone camera, and painter's tape/marker handy for notes.

Step Two - Tank & Fill Points

- Check gravity fill and pressurized fill for drips.
- Inspect vent line near the tank.

Step Three - Pump & Lines

- Turn on pump; let it prime.
- Watch fittings around the pump closely.
- Once system pressurizes, listen: Pump should stop and stay off (unless you open a faucet).

Step Four - Water Heater

- Confirm heater bypass valves are not installed (straight flow).
- Allow heater tank to fill (watch water level drop in fresh tank).
- Open HOT side at faucet until flow runs steady (air fully bled).

NOTES:

- When you run the pump, water will automatically fill the heater tank. You'll know it's full once water comes out steadily (not spurting air) on the hot side of your faucets.
- You don't need to flip on the heater's electric/propane at all for this stage — just let cold water run through it.
- Be aware: the water heater holds several gallons, so your tank level will drop quickly the first time you fill it. Don't be surprised if your tank looks like it's emptying fast — it's just filling the heater.

Step Five - Faucets & Fixtures

- One at a time: open each faucet/shower (cold, then hot).
- Check toilet, exterior spray port, and any other fixtures.
- Inspect under each connection while water is flowing.

Step Six - Pressure Hold Test

- Close all faucets.
- Let pump shut off.
- Leave system pressurized for 30–60 minutes.
- Confirm: Pump does not cycle back on, towels/paper towels stay dry.

Step Seven - Final Checks

- Look under the van for drips.
- Inspect water heater relief valve for seepage.
- Tighten/tweak any fittings as needed.