

# THE ULTIMATE DIY VAN CONVERSION CHECKLIST

How to begin converting a van when you don't know where to begin.



## The Checklist

### ☐ Set Your Budget

Before you start, determine how much you're willing to spend. Break your budget into categories like van purchase, build materials, and tools. Keep this flexible, but realistic.

### ☐ Define Your Travel Style

Decide how you'll use the van—full-time living or part-time trips, off-roading or urban stealth camping. This affects nearly every build decision.

### ☐ Get Inspired

Browse Instagram, Pinterest, YouTube, and blogs to spark ideas. Pay attention to layouts, finishes, and storage solutions that match your vibe.

### ☐ Make Must-Have & Nice-to-Have Lists

Separate your essentials (like a bed, fridge, or solar power) from luxuries (like a roof rack or indoor shower). Let your budget guide trade-offs.

### ☐ Choose the Right Van

Start shopping with your goals in mind—cargo vs. passenger, high roof vs. low roof, new or used. Look for solid condition and layout potential.

### ☐ Get a workspace for van build

Find a reliable spot to work—garage, driveway, or rented shop space. You'll need room for cutting, assembling, and storing materials/tools.

### ☐ Design your layout

Plan the space based on needs. Use pen & paper, or tools like SketchUp or Vanspace to map out sleeping, cooking, storage, and living zones.

### ☐ Buy or Borrow Tools

Gather tools like drills, saws, sanders, crimpers, and safety gear. Consider borrowing or renting specialized equipment to save costs.

### ☐ Prep Your van

Before building, clean and inspect the van thoroughly. Address rust, leaks, or mechanical issues now—it's way harder later.

### ☐ Map Out Measurements

Take detailed interior measurements. Mark out your build on the van floor with tape or chalk to test spacing before committing.

### ☐ Start Building!

Begin with insulation, electrical, and structural framing. Then layer in the walls, cabinetry, plumbing, and finish work step by step.



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