

DIFFERENCE:

Class A vs. Class B vs. Class C Motorhomes

A Motorhome Comparison Guide





ABOUT

RV WHOLESALE SUPERSTORE

Family owned and operated since 1972, RV Wholesale Superstore has been selling and servicing a variety of recreational vehicles to customers just like you. We have a long tradition of customer service excellence because we recognize that our customers are part of our family and because we've partnered with the best manufacturers in the RV business.

We stock more than 25 brands from major manufacturers like Forest River, Palomino, Coachmen and Keystone including, many different travel trailers, fifth wheels, toy haulers, sport utility RVs, hybrid expandable RVs, and pop-up trailers. Our factory-trained professionals are here to help you find the RV that is right for you.

We understand that today's customer is value-driven. Our mission is to help you find the right RV for the right price and provide you with the best service long after your purchase.

RV Wholesale Superstore has a global reach. While our show yard is located just outside of Toledo, Ohio, we specialize in wholesale RVs shipped throughout the United States, Canada, and overseas. Visit us online at www.rvwholesalesuperstore.com, in-person at 5080 W. Alexis Road, Sylvania, OH, or call **844-601-1171**.



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A, B, OR C: WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE & WHICH IS BEST FOR ME?

DEFINE & DECIDE

If you are new to the RV lifestyle, you may be wondering what the A, B, and C classification of motorized RVs (also known as motorhomes or motor coaches) is all about.

In this ebook, we'll look at each category, the advantages and disadvantages of each, and identify how one may suit your needs over another.

IN A NUTSHELL

Let's take a quick look at the bottom-line differences between A, B, and C motorhomes.

CLASS A

Class A motorhomes are built on a heavy-duty frame, usually a commercial bus chassis or a commercial truck chassis. These large and in charge RVs are often synonymous with luxury, offering many amenities.

CLASS B

Class B motorhomes are also known as camper vans. They are the smallest class of motorized RVs and built on a van chassis. Some high-end camper vans can approach the size of a Class C vehicle with heights that allow for standing room.

CLASS C

Class C motorhomes are the middle of the road choice between Class A and Class B RVs. They are built on a truck chassis and are easily recognizable by their over-the-cab sleeping space. They provide plenty of space for camping with family or friends, yet are more fuel efficient than Class A motorhomes.

UNIVERSAL CHARACTERISTICS

No matter which class of motorhome fits your plan for adventure, there are some characteristics that are universal. Motorhomes range in length from less than twenty feet to more than forty feet. Prices can also vary from tens of thousands of dollars to almost a million for a luxurious, customized vehicle. Some enthusiasts believe that motorhomes are easier to drive and park than travel trailers, and that they may provide an extra layer of safety if there is an emergency or suspicious situation in the middle of the night; just turn the key in the ignition and leave.

IT'S REALLY ABOUT YOU

When choosing the right rig for your camping crew, consider your space needs and travel plans. For example, a small family that wants to visit many destinations easily to sightsee may want a small easy-to-handle RV. A family with off-road vehicles that travels with other families to participate in outdoor fun, may want a RV that provides sleeping and eating space but can also haul all their equipment. Read on for more information about each of these motorhome classes and our favorites in the Class C category.



Class A – The Luxury Ride

When you think of retirees that have sold their house to travel full time, or rock stars that drive from city to city in a decked-out tour bus, you're probably picturing a Class A motorhome. These large and in charge RVs are often synonymous with luxury, offering many amenities.

High-end kitchens and dining areas, living rooms with large TVs, spacious bathrooms, and master bedrooms with walk-in closets are just some of the possibilities in a Class A rig. But luxury has its price and that price is fuel efficiency.



THE BASICS

Class A motorhomes are built on a heavy-duty frame, usually a commercial bus chassis or a commercial truck chassis, and are the largest category of motorized RVs. They are very rectangular in appearance ranging between 30 and 40 feet in length. If it's big and boxy with a very large windshield, then it's probably a Class A motorhome.

With 8-10 MPG, the Class A motorhome has the worst fuel economy of the motorized RVs.

Many Class A owners also choose to tow a small car (affectionately referred to as the "toad") for fuel efficient local transportation and sightseeing.

While traveling, it's tempting to move about the cabin of your luxury RV. Maybe you need a quick bathroom break or want to make lunch, but this is dangerous! Riding in the living compartment of an RV puts passengers at risk of injury from projectiles during sudden stops or an accident. Remember, the majority of states in the U.S. have the same safety requirements for RV travel as they do for passenger car travel, so unless you have the proper restraints, it is not legal for passengers to ride in the living space of an RV. When you're traveling down the highway at speeds up to 60 mph, every passenger should be securely seated.

ADVANTAGES

What are the advantages to owning and traveling in a Class A motorhome?

- Plenty of storage space means you can bring all the comforts of home
- A roomy interior allows for extra family or friends
- Luxury amenities rival many high-end houses

With a spacious interior, Class A RVs usually have a rear master suite including a full bathroom with a glass-enclosed shower and there's probably a washer/dryer unit on board to handle laundry.

Floor plans of today's Class A motorhomes tend to include multiple slide-outs. Some can expand to a width of over 14 feet. Large flat screen HDTVs, surround sound systems, even dishwashers and ice machines are common options. The list of upgrades is almost endless.

Additionally, available storage lets you bring enough supplies to keep you on the road permanently. Class A RVs are great for the traveler with extended or full-time adventures. They provide comfort all day and night during driving, resting, and recreational activities.

DISADVANTAGES

What are the disadvantages to owning and traveling in a Class A motorhome?

- Upfront purchase price
- Fuel Efficiency
- Maintenance and insurance costs for your RV and “toad”
- Campground fees or accessibility

As with any purchase in the luxury category, you can expect to pay more for a Class A motorhome. These RVs can range in price from \$75,000 to well over a million dollars. Some luxury coaches designed for use by private individuals (think rock stars) even push well over the million-dollar price point with customization.

Another disadvantage with a Class A purchase is fuel efficiency. With their boxy, large profile, you’ll be spending big money just to keep your Class A motorhome rolling down the highway.

Have you thought about the maintenance and insurance costs of owning a large RV? Generally, the bigger the RV, the more that can go wrong—because motorhomes have engines, transmissions, pumps, and sophisticated electronics. Plus, if you don’t want to be stuck at your destination, you have to consider the added maintenance of your sightseeing car. And, don’t forget, the bigger the rig the larger your insurance bill. You should check several insurance companies for the best rate and service before you buy.

Lastly, don’t forget to add in the cost of campground fees and to check the availability of sites to fit your rig. Some federal, state and county agencies offer free camping in primitive sites or a very reasonable \$10 to \$20 per night. Whereas privately run campgrounds that offer heated swimming pools and hot tubs, laundry, rec rooms, restaurants, landscaping, cable TV, and hefty 50-amp electric service charge equally hefty fees—some exceeding \$50 a night. If adventure is what you seek, also remember that driving a Class A motorhome will limit the amount of travel you can do off of the beaten path.



A Class C motorhome is shown in the lower-left portion of the page, parked on a grassy area. The motorhome is white with dark grey and black accents. In the background, a large waterfall cascades down a rocky cliff, set against a backdrop of misty mountains and evergreen trees under a soft, golden light. The overall scene is serene and scenic.

Class C – Best of Both Worlds

Since moving down the list by size seems logical, let's look at the Class C motorhome. You read that correctly: Class C RVs are bigger than Class B RVs.

The Class C motorhome offers the RV enthusiast the best of both worlds as a compromise between Class A and Class B RVs. They have plenty of sleeping and storage space, yet are more fuel efficient than Class A motorhomes. You can also choose to tow a separate vehicle behind or just use your RV for local transportation.

THE BASICS

Class C motorhomes are built on a truck or cargo van chassis and are easily recognizable by their over-the-cab camper space. Primarily the space over the cab is used to house a queen or king bed, however some manufacturers are now installing entertainment centers and additional storage in this area rather than beds.

They can range in length from less than 25 feet to more than 33 feet, and prices for these RVs begin around \$60,000 and go well over \$100,000 for top-of-the-line models.



ADVANTAGES

Here are some of the advantages to owning and traveling in a Class C motorhome.

- Enjoy all the comforts of home with better fuel efficiency than Class A
- Better safety construction
- Find qualified service providers for maintenance
- Maneuver and park in a variety of campsites more easily

Class C motorhomes offer many amenities that let you camp with all the comforts of home, but stop just short of extravagant. You won't find a washer/dryer, heated ceramic tile floors, or ice machines here, but there will be plenty of space for your camping crew and all of their gear.

When it comes time to servicing your RV, you'll appreciate having access to qualified mechanics. Since Class C motorhomes are built on a name-brand truck or cargo van chassis and drive-train (such as Ford and Chevrolet) it's a little easier to get service on your vehicle.

If you are looking to do a little more exploring but want to keep your gear close, a Class C RV will get you a little closer to that dream. Overall, Class C RVs are smaller and you will have more opportunities to camp in secluded areas and enjoy additional campgrounds that don't have the space to accommodate a Class A rig.

Flip the page for a quick look at our most popular Class C RVs at RV Wholesale Super Store.

COACHMEN LEPRECHAUN

Discerning RVers know that Coachmen Leprechaun is one of the best class C RVs on the market. Established in 1973, the Leprechaun has generations of loyalists who value its reputation for quality construction, upgrade options, and essential safety and convenience features.

The Leprechaun comes with standard equipment like back-up cameras, power awning, slideroom awning(s), 50-gallon capacity for fresh water, steel framed floors and customizable 2” sidewalls built with Azdel Superlite. Raised panel cabinetry, nightshades, upgraded flooring and upgraded furniture are optional to make your Leprechaun feel even more like home.



COACHMEN FREELANDER

As an industry leader for more than a decade, our list of best class C RVs wouldn't be complete without the Coachman Frelander. And with a mantra to “provide more factory installed features than anyone else, unparalleled value and reliable design and quality at an affordable price,” it comes as no surprise. The model is perfect for novice and experienced RVers, alike.



DISADVANTAGES

As for the downsides, Class C RVs do have a few.

- Less open square footage
- Extra work required to set-up and tear-down sleeping quarters each night
- Limited field of vision because of smaller wind shield
- Value depreciates faster than a Class A

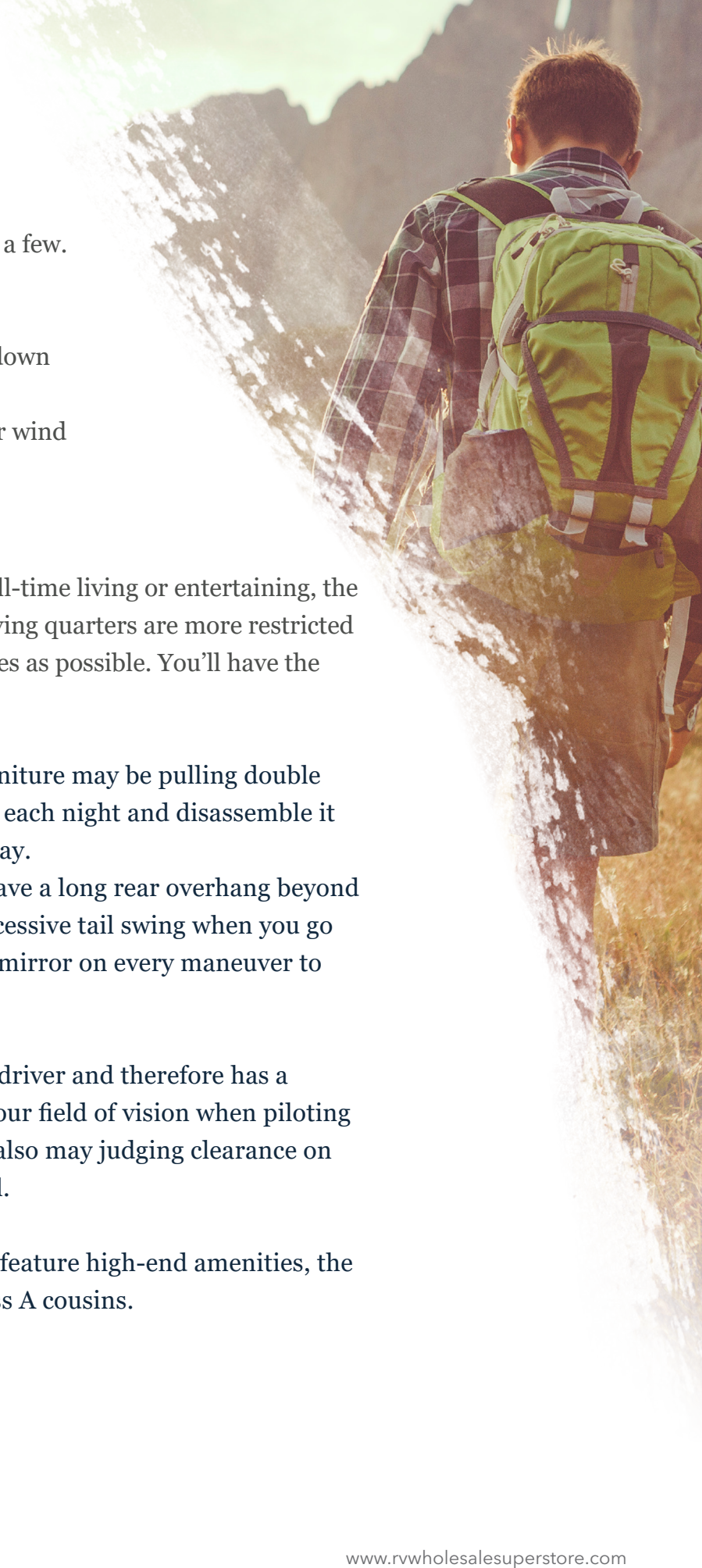
If you require a lot of square footage for full-time living or entertaining, the Class C may not be the best RV for you. Living quarters are more restricted in a Class C in order to add as many features as possible. You'll have the things you need, but on a smaller scale.

On that same note, some features and furniture may be pulling double duty. You may need to assemble your bed each night and disassemble it each morning to use that space another way.

The ones that have a rear bedroom also have a long rear overhang beyond the rear wheels. You'll get a heck of an excessive tail swing when you go around corners, you'll be watching in the mirror on every maneuver to make sure you don't tag someone.

The Class C is built with a full cab for the driver and therefore has a regular-sized windshield that may limit your field of vision when piloting this rig. Beware that the wide frame may also may judging clearance on your right-hand side more difficult as well.

And while some Class C motorhomes can feature high-end amenities, they do lose value more quickly than their Class A cousins.



Class B – Fuel Efficient Free Spirit

From the outside, Class B motorhomes look very much like an oversized van and are commonly known as camper vans. Inside, they are tall enough for standing room and if there is a kitchen, living room, or bathroom, they are very small.

Camper vans are best suited for one or two people and often are popular with couples. These Class B motorhomes are the smallest, easiest to drive, and have the best fuel economy making them the best fit for free-spirited adventurers. Despite their size, they can still cost up to \$100,000 depending on customization.



THE BASICS

Class B motorhomes are the smallest class of motorized RVs and built on a van chassis. Some high-end camper vans can approach the size of a Class C vehicle with heights that allow for standing room. Most Class B motorhomes do not have slide outs. In terms of cost, these motorhomes are the least expensive out of the three types. They are also the smallest in size and allow for easy driving, parking and maneuverability.

Again, Class B RVs use a cargo van as the base and can be customized simply, within the shell of a van or filled to the brim using the same chassis as a Class C, but without the over-cab sleeping space. If you are looking for an easy-to-drive, fuel efficient camper, then a Class B motorhome may be for you.

ADVANTAGES

Some advantages of choosing a Class B motorhome include:

- Many will fit right into a standard garage allowing for easy storage
- More fuel efficient than Class A or Class C RVs
- Parking will not be an issue since the typical Class B RV can fit into a mall parking spot

Generally, Class B motorhomes are smaller and more compact allowing for parking and storage in most standard garages. Even with their small size, many contain the same lifestyle amenities as a larger RV but on a smaller scale.

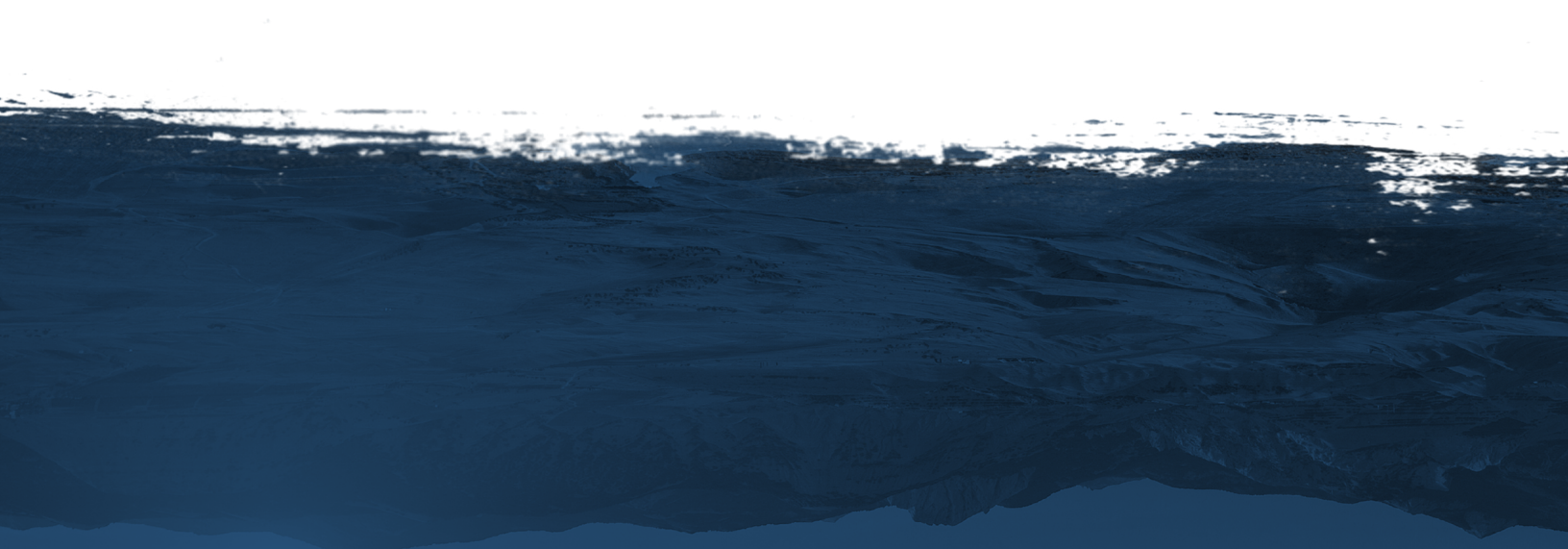
It goes without saying that their smaller size also means better gas mileage. Your travel dollar stretches even farther in a Class B motorhome. With a small Class B RV, you can explore campgrounds and roads that larger motorhomes cannot. Plus, easy maneuverability lets you park almost anywhere (that's allowed).

DISADVANTAGES

Some of the downsides of owning and traveling in a Class B motorhome include:

- You will long for more space; a cramped interior
- Your kitchen table is probably also your bed
- Pack light; there is no storage

The number one factor that may have you longing for an upgrade is the lack of space in a Class B camper van. Even with just two people, turning around can be tricky without bumping into each other or something else.



WILL YOU CHOOSE A, B, OR C?

Each class of RV is designed to meet certain needs. What's right for someone else may not make sense for you. It's all a matter of determining which RV provides the best match for your individual and specific needs. As a bonus, you don't need a CDL license in order to drive a motorized RV. This includes the mega-sized, ultra-luxurious Class A motor coaches. So as long as you have a standard driver's license, you're good to go! Before you make an expensive decision, be sure to spend a good amount of time looking at all three. Making an educated decision will help you avoid making the wrong decision in the end.

Consider your own lifestyle as you decide which class RV is right for you. Are you a weekend traveler or will you be traveling full-time? How many people will be traveling together? Do you have any physical restrictions that need to be accommodated? What is your budget?

WHY WE RECOMMEND A CLASS C

Class C RVs are among the most common and recognizable on the market. They are notorious for their easy handling, space, towing capabilities and safety features. For these reasons, and more, class C RVs are perfect options for both new and seasoned RVers.

Class C RVs include plenty of cupboards and hiding spaces inside and compartments outside for maximum storage. With the large cab-over bed, folding sofa, and drop down dinette, most class C RVs can sleep six comfortably; if the rear is extended to include a bedroom suite, eight can be accommodated.

SAFETY

The RV Consumer Group considers the class C motor home safer over other classes primarily for the cockpit construction, which features a frontal crush area and all-steel cage offering protection for the driver and passenger in a rollover situation. The cutaway chassis foundation provides built-in safety features normally associated with a standard cargo van or truck.



CLASS C MOTORHOME OPTIONS AND MORE

When it comes to selecting a RV that fits your own unique needs, you can choose from many styles and models. From mini travel trailers and expandable hybrids to toy haulers, fifth-wheels, and Class C RVs there is something for everyone.

Whatever you decide, the knowledgeable staff at RV Wholesale Superstore can help you. Our most popular Class C RVs, the Coachmen Freelanders and the Coachmen Leprechaun, offer a variety of floor plans, fuel efficient construction, many amenities to choose from, and hours of outdoor fun!

Armed with a little more knowledge, it's time to take that next step and view some of our RVs available. RV Wholesale Superstore stocks more than 25 brands from major manufacturers like Forest River, Palomino, Coachmen and Keystone.

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