

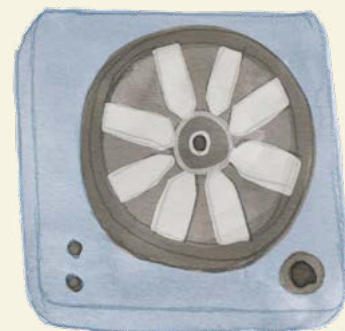
Warm-Weather Necessities for Off-Grid Adventuring

Tools for keeping calm, cool, and critter-free in the heat, so you can make the most of your surroundings



1. Citronella Candles

If you want to further deter marauding mosquitoes, giant citronella candles can also help keep bugs at bay—plus, they look and smell lovely. You can buy them or make your own from citronella oil and beeswax. Just be sure to follow fire-safety guidelines.



2. Ceiling Fan

A vent fan is an ideal way to circulate cool, fresh air around your van, and is particularly useful in instances when leaving your windows open isn't an option. Affordable and easy to install, most models are remote-control operated and offer multiple speed settings.



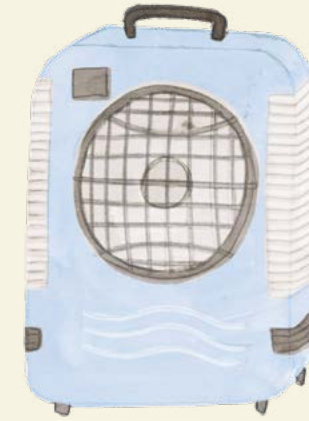
3. Awning

Awnings are a hot-weather, off-grid essential. They markedly expand your living space, while providing much-needed shelter from sunshine and summer downpours alike. The best models attach to the sides or roof of your vehicle for easy assembly and space efficiency.



4. Bug Screens

There are few things more disruptive to a good night's sleep than insect invaders, especially mosquitoes. When the heat is too stifling to shutter up, a good set of bug screens—ideally ones designed for your specific camper, to ensure a secure fit—is a key investment.



5. Portable AC

For extra warm or humid climates, a portable air conditioner may be necessary to regulate your van's temperature and air quality. Many also have built-in dehumidifiers. Remember to check the AC's BTU rating (i.e., cooling capacity) to make sure it's the right size for your van.



6. Fridge

With a 12-volt refrigerator, you can venture well off the beaten track while keeping your food fresh and drinks cold. Seek out top-loading units designed for vans to maximize space (both internally and externally). These often come with a freezer section too.



7. Outdoor Kitchenette

If you're a mostly warm-weather camper, consider integrating a pull-out kitchenette into your van design. Usually equipped with a sink, cooktop, and extra counter space, galley kitchens can vastly expand your cooking area, enabling you to whip up feasts under the stars.



8. Outdoor Shower

Likewise, an outdoor shower is a great space-maker (and money saver) for summertime travelers. Options abound, from tankless, propane, or electricity-fueled models to roof-mounted, fresh-water showers with built-in solar panels. Don't forget your biodegradable soap!



9. Outdoor Furniture

Outdoor furniture helps you make the most of your new surroundings. There are all sorts of fold-up and pull-out tables and chairs available, so do your research: make sure they're comfortable, compact, and durable. And invest in a hammock for afternoon siestas.