

RV 101

DIESEL PUSHER vs. GAS PULLER

Top Reasons why RVers buy a Diesel Pusher motor home vs. a Gas Class A type motor home.

1. **LONGEVITY:** If you plan to drive 40,000 – 50,000 miles per year, a diesel pusher is for you. Diesel engines by Cummins, CAT, & Detroit Diesel are designed to go 400,000+ miles before any major overhaul. At overhaul, some engines can be rebuilt if they have sleeved cylinders (examples of sleeved engines would be; the Cummins ISC-8.3, ISL-8.9, ISM-11, CAT C9, or C13) Example of Non-Sleeved are; Cummins ISB & CAT 3126 or C7. This only comes into question if you plan to put 300,000 or more on the engine. *(NOTE: The average RVer travels 5,000 to 7,500 miles per year in their RV, according to NADA Value Guides)*
2. **WEIGHT:** Another reason to buy Diesel vs. Gas. If you plan to carry a HEAVY LOAD.... If you want to tow your 8,000lb. Hummer, a race trailer, carry your favorite rock collection, or need to have luxury items such as ceramic tile floors or granite countertops. Gas motor homes have less weight capacity vs. the larger diesel pusher chassis. Most gas motor homes can only tow up to 5,000lbs. (at the most) and most diesel pushers are now rated at 10,000lbs. tow capacity, and some are as high as 15,000lbs. Gas powered class A type chassis' max out at 22,000 – 24,000 lbs GVWR (Gross Vehicle Weight Rating) and Rear Diesel Coaches rate as high as 59,000 lbs. GVWR. Class A type coaches go up to 38', where diesel coaches can go up to 45'.
3. **POWER:** Diesels are known for their higher torque. Torque is what gets you up that hill quicker, especially when there is a lot of weight to be pushed up that hill. Most medium to heavy duty diesel engines produce 2-3 times the amount torque of a gas engine of the same horsepower. High horsepower diesels (400hp+) will go up steep grades almost effortlessly, while gas coaches will usually strain and slow down on a mountain incline.
4. **THAT'S WHAT I WANT:** The most popular reason people buy Diesel pushers is because they are "*the thing to have*" and they are the coach to be seen in. Today's luxury diesel coaches have all, or even more than, the amenities of home. Ceramic or Granite floors, CORIAN & Granite counter tops & showers, Large LCD TVs, rich hardwood cabinets, up to 4 slide rooms, up to 45' (or 460 sq/ft) and a wealth of other items. The larger diesels do drive better than their gas powered class A counterparts. The extra weight and longer wheel base makes the coach ride better and is less susceptible to crosswinds.