



Thinking of Building a Micro Camper?

Read this first.

5 Mistakes That Cost People Time, Money, and Frustration

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INTRO

If you're thinking about building a micro camper — or you've already started — this guide could save you a lot of time, money, and frustration.

I've been working with campervans and leisure vehicles for over 30 years, and I've seen builds that look incredible... but don't work in real life.

And I've seen simple builds that people absolutely love — because they just work.

Most problems don't come from bad workmanship. They come from decisions made too early... or without thinking about how the van will actually be used.

Things that seem like a great idea at the start can quickly become frustrating once you're out using it.

That's why I've put this guide together.

Because when it's done properly, a micro camper is one of the best things you'll ever own.

It gives you freedom, flexibility, and the ability to just get out and enjoy yourself whenever you want.

But only if it actually works.

MISTAKE 1 — COPYING A LAYOUT WITHOUT THINKING ABOUT USE

A lot of people copy layouts they've seen online.

But what works in one van doesn't always work in another — especially in smaller vans.

What tends to happen:

- It looks good
- It fits in the space
- But it's awkward to actually use

Think about this:

Can you open the door and sit down straight away?

If not, it will become frustrating.

The easier it is to use, the more you'll actually use it.

MISTAKE 2 — NOT PLANNING STORAGE PROPERLY

This is probably the biggest mistake.

People plan the layout — but not where everything actually goes.

In real use, you've got:

- Food
- Cooking gear
- Clothes
- Bedding
- Everyday items

What tends to happen:

- Things get stacked
- You move things constantly
- It becomes frustrating

Good storage makes the van usable, not just tidy.

MISTAKE 3 — LEAVING ELECTRICS UNTIL LATE

Electrics need planning early, not at the end.

The problem:

- Panels fitted
- Access gone
- Limited options

This leads to:

- Messy installs
- Limited upgrades
- Compromises

Plan ahead, even if you install later.

MISTAKE 4 — MAKING THE BED A HASSLE

If your bed setup is awkward, it affects how often you use your van.

It also affects comfort — both sitting and sleeping.

What tends to happen:

- Unfolding boards
- Moving cushions
- Rebuilding every time

Over time, it becomes a chore.

If it's not comfortable or easy, you'll avoid using it.

Keep it simple, comfortable, and quick to use.

MISTAKE 5 — NOT THINKING ABOUT REAL-WORLD USE

This is where everything comes together.

Ask yourself:

- Can I sit comfortably?
- Can I access everything easily?
- Can I stay inside without hassle?

A good build works without effort.

It should feel natural to use, not like hard work.

Small things — like making a drink from bed — make a huge difference.

That's what separates a usable van from a frustrating one.

FINAL THOUGHT

There's no perfect setup — but there is one that works for you.

WANT THE FULL GUIDE?

If you're planning a build, the full guide goes much deeper.

If this has helped you already, the full guide goes much deeper and will help you avoid the mistakes most people only realise after they've built their van.