

# Timberland Freedom User Guide



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**RAC**  
**24 hr Breakdown Cover**  
**0800 0151 888.**

Reference HU 32525

Vehicle Registration



## **Pre-Start Checks**

There are a lot of items that need to be safely stowed before driving the vehicle. Please follow this checklist – it starts at the back, and works forward through the vehicle.

1. TV put on the floor.
2. Gas off.
3. Boiler vent cover on.
4. Mains connection cover latched, and cable stowed.
5. Table and worktop extension stowed.
6. Toilet valve closed, and lid down.
7. Levelling Ramps retrieved from under wheels.
8. Bikes fixed to rack, or rear storage box locked.
9. Check rear repeater lights are working.
10. No loose items on or around wash basin.
11. Fridge: contents secure and door locked shut.
12. All cupboards and drawers properly closed.
13. Both roof lights latched closed.
14. Work surfaces clear of loose items.
15. Cooker lid down (with anti rattle towel in place).
16. Water heater off.
17. Central heating off.
18. Windows latched shut with blinds open.
19. Rear window curtains fully opened.
20. Clean water tank: does it need filling?
21. Wastewater tank: does it need emptying?
22. Toilet: does it need emptying?
23. Mirror adjustment: can you see the rear wheels?
24. Remember the extra length; be prepared to run wide on corners.

## Driving a large vehicle

The dimensions of this vehicle are printed on the front cover.

**Width:** Although it appears big, the van is actually not much wider than an ordinary car. The exterior mirrors are the widest part of the vehicle, and they give you a good “feel” for the width. Be careful though about getting too close to trees and hedges; vans are frequently scratched by strong branches hidden among the leaves.

The biggest difficulty for a new driver is in judging the extra length.

**Length:** The rear wheels are significantly further back from the driver than in a normal car. As a result it is very easy to turn too soon and have the rear wheels bump over the kerb, or worse, to scrape the side of the van against something.

The trick is to turn later, running wider on corners and at junctions. Adjust each external mirror so that you can see both the kerb and the rear wheel. As you turn glance in the mirror, and you will quickly learn when to turn.

**Height:** Watch out for overhanging branches, particularly when you are squeezing into the side of the road to avoid another oncoming vehicle and your attention is focussed at ground level. The height (2.7m) is written on a label at the top of the windscreen.

**Parking:** The vehicle is too tall to fit in most multi-storey car parks, and longer than most on-street parking bays. If you effectively occupy two parking bays, it is safer to buy two parking tickets. Some car parks have high-level barriers that are open during the day, but close in the evening, and could prevent your tall vehicle from leaving.

**Reversing:** Ask your passenger to walk ahead to guide you. Tell them to stand where they can see you in the mirrors, so you can see them – and open both front windows, so you can hear them.

**Driving:** Diesel engines are generally happier to run at lower revs than petrol engines.

**Passengers** must remain seated with seat belts fastened whenever the vehicle is moving.

Height: 2,650mm, Width: 2,050mm, Length: 5,5mm,

Max Gross Weight: 3300kg

## No Smoking

**There is no smoking inside the van.** We have also had problems when smokers have stood outside the door or under the awning. It seems the wind has taken the smoke into the van where it has adhered to the soft furnishings leaving a very unpleasant odour for the next users. Smokers tend to under estimate how pervasive cigarette smoke is.

## Fire Prevention

Frying pan or grill fires are probably the greatest risk in a caravan.

Don't try and carry a burning pan outside as the flames may blow back onto your arms.

Use a wet tea towel to cover flames entirely.

Switch off heat, and leave covered until cool.

- There is a red fire extinguisher is beside the driver.

## Emergency Equipment

Behind the passenger seat are stored:-

- One High-visibility Vest
- First Aid Kit

## Gas

Inside the rear door is the gas compartment. The gas is switched on and off knob on top of the cylinder.

The gas must be off when driving, and it is illegal to have it on in petrol filling stations and ferries.

If you have to change a gas cylinder, remember that the fittings **have left-hand threads** (opposite to most screws) so in the illustration above you would turn the nut clockwise to release it.

Finally, there are distribution valves in the bottom of the wardrobe. These give separate control over which appliances receive gas:-

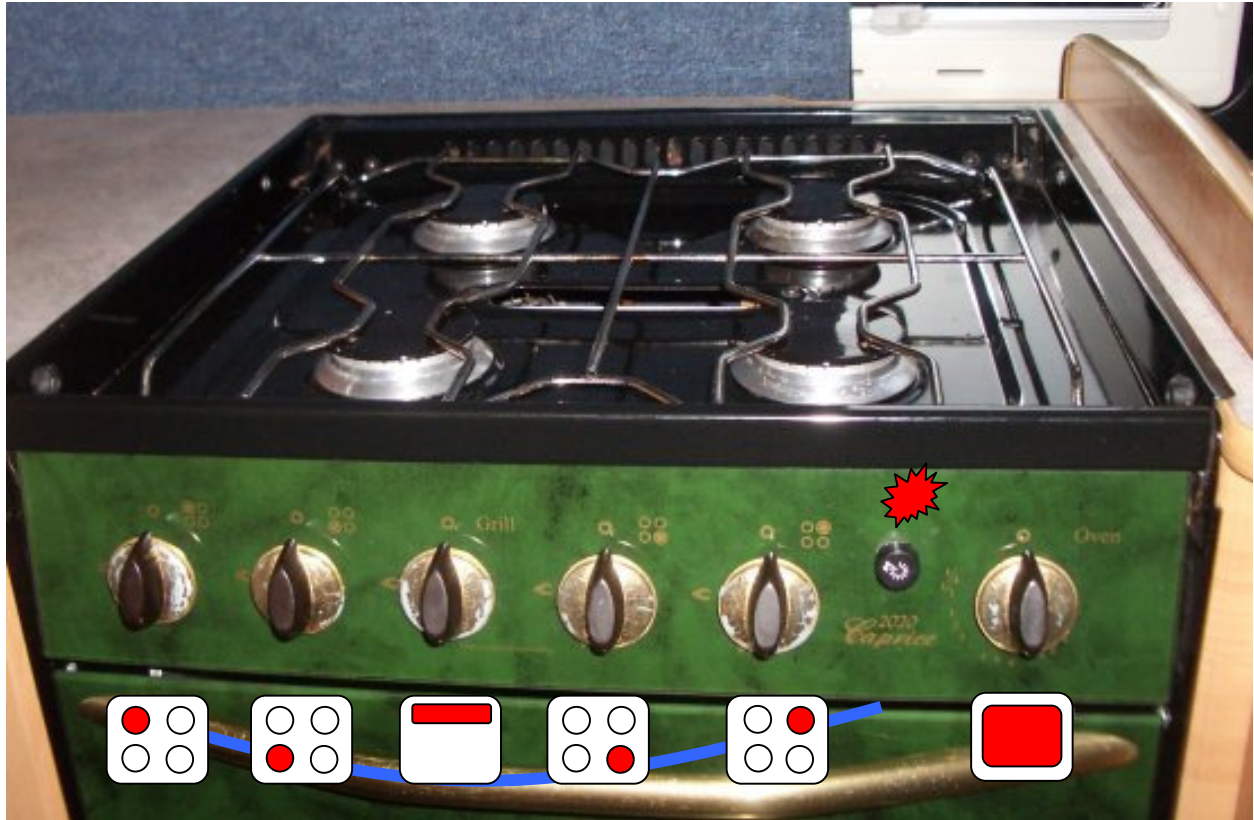
- Cooker
- Water Heating



## Cooker

The lid of the cooker should be always raised before use, and not lowered until the hob has cooled. There is push-button ignition on the front - to the right of the knobs.

The gas ring controls start with the rear left, and move around the hob anti-clockwise. It may help to think of them as forming a sort of smile? (As shown here in blue)



The knobs must be held in for a few seconds after lighting. This is a safety feature that turns off the gas if the flame blows out.

When travelling, the lid should be lowered on to a tea towel folded and placed on the hob, to prevent rattles.

## Microwave Oven

The microwave is only useable when the van is connected to a 230 v ac mains supply.

**Do not put melamine crockery in the microwave, or any metal items.**

Put a tea towel under the glass turntable to prevent rattles when travelling. See makers leaflet on Page 24.

## Fridge

The fridge is a compressor type which runs economically off either 12v or mains 230v electricity. The main on-off switch is behind the passenger seat and the temperature is adjust by a knob inside.

The door has a push button latch, designed to prevent the door swinging open under heavy acceleration with a fully loaded door.

The latch has two positions, one of which holds the door slightly ajar when it is not in service. Make sure you use the other position to tightly seal the door otherwise ice builds up inside the fridge.

## Water Tanks

The van has storage tanks for clean water and waste “grey” water. Grey water is exclusively what has gone down the drains of the sinks or shower. The toilet is a completely different system.

Clean water is not suitable for drinking without boiling. A separate bottle of drinking water should be carried for that purpose.

The clean water tank is filled through a filler on the right side of the vehicle, using a hose stored in the gas compartment.

Water is electrically pumped from the tank to the taps, shower, and toilet flush. The pump creates a small positive pressure in the system and then switches off.

When any tap is opened, the pressure falls and the pump runs again until the pressure is restored – when the tap is turned off.

If the pump can be heard running for no reason, this may be a sign of a leak in the system or a fault in the pump – or a tap left dripping.

Water tank levels are indicated on the electrical control panel – see later

Water is obviously heavy, so there is no point in carrying excessive amounts around when not required. The clean water tank can be fully or partially drained using the tap outside the van just ahead of the sliding door. .

Empty the waste-water tank over a designated drainage point. The outlet is just ahead of the left rear wheel and it drains best if the vehicle is level or facing downhill. The tap is unfortunately quite stiff.

**Try to avoid putting fat and solid material down the drain. It accumulates in the tank and causes bad smells.**



# Heating

Once the van is connected to mains on site, it can be heated using the fan thermostatically controlled fan heater

Away from a 230v mains supply, the van can be heated with a gas fuelled blown-air heater controlled by the top switch below.



If the blown-air heater fails to light the red light glows. Give it a few minutes and try again. This heater can be used when the van is moving.

The lower switches provide water heating either by gas or 230v electricity (on site).

Electricity is normally provided free by the site operator.

When using gas to heat water for a shower, the temperature should be set high to get the best use out of the 10 litres of hot water produced.

The cover over the boiler flue must be removed before operation, and placed on the dashboard as reminder to the driver to replace it before driving further.

Choose your water temperature, and the boiler spark ignition can be heard for a few seconds until it lights the flame.

If the boiler fails to light, a red warning light appears on the switch. You must then wait 5 minutes for the unburned gas to dissipate before trying to light the boiler again.

Once alight, the boiler will take about 15 minutes to fully heat the tank.

# Showering

The hot water tank holds 10 litres, so don't waste hot water otherwise it may run out....

# Electrically Operated Step

The step is controlled by a switch beside the sliding door (inside by the passenger seat).

## Electrics

The van has an additional “leisure battery” which feeds all the appliances in the living area:- interior lights, water pump, electrical outlets, fridge, cooker ignition, toilet flush, and water-level gauges.

Many of these devices are disabled when the ignition is switched on.

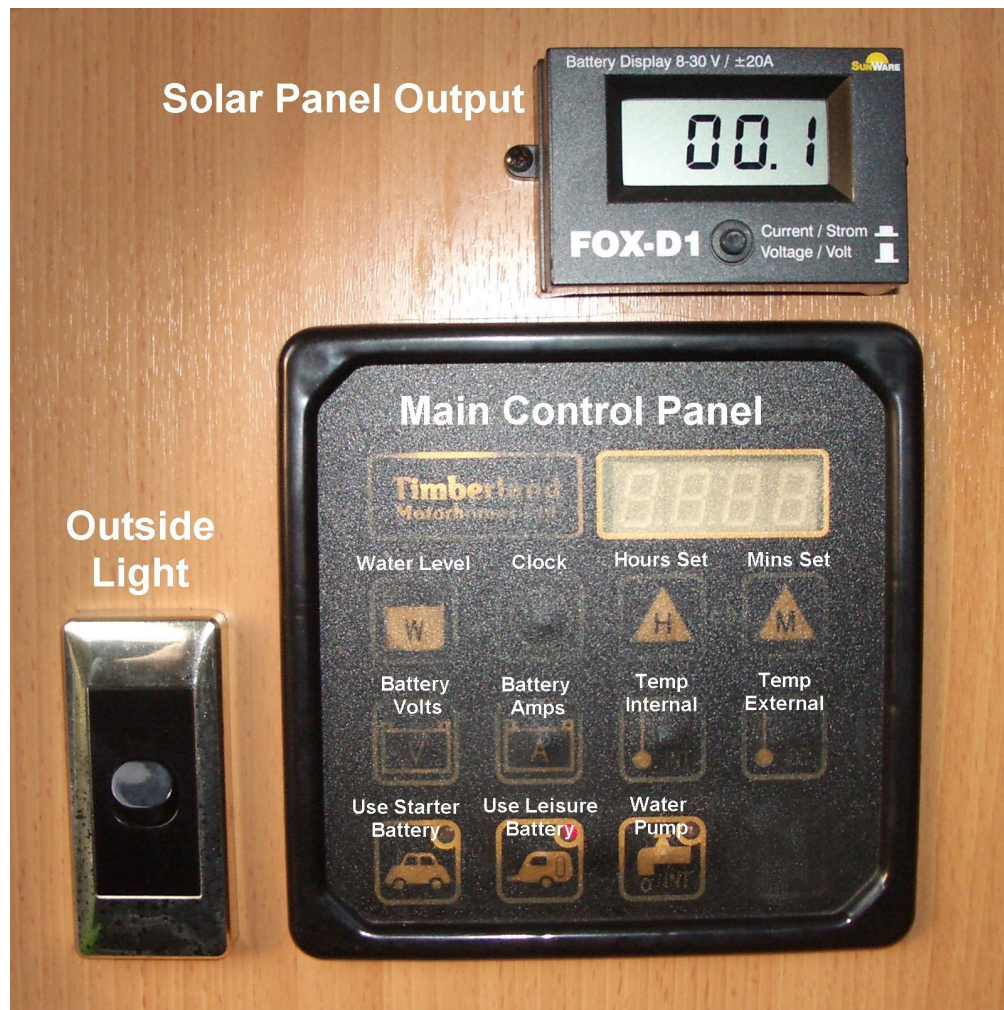
There is also a 16amp 230v mains input on the right side.

This is connected using the 25 metre long orange cable stowed in the gas compartment. This cable has a blue plug, which suits most caravan site outlets, but there is also a 13amp adaptor for normal UK domestic sockets.



There is a control panel above the fridge.

You should normally select the leisure battery (to save the starter battery) and turn on the pump. Press again to switch off.





## TV

A TV can be mounted on top of the fridge. But remember to put it on the floor before travelling.

The aerial amplifier is found in the cupboard over the sink.

## Inverter (Optional)

When the van is not connected to the mains, the inverter creates a small 230v ac supply from one of the 12volt dc outlets. It is however limited to 300W - enough for phone chargers and small laptops, but not generally suitable for heating appliances (e.g. hair driers/ straighteners) – unless they are below this power rating.

## Toilet

The toilet has an electric flush, so turn on the water pump first.

Wet the bowl with a brief press of the button.



The outlet from the toilet bowl is normally closed with a black sealing “blade”.

This is moved out of the way by rotating the knob

After use, flush the toilet by pressing the knob, and close the blade by turning the knob back.

A red warning shows when the toilet tank is nearly full. See details of emptying at the back of this guide. Spare fluid is kept in the gas locker, and a 1-litre bottle is provided for measuring the water to be added.

**Never** added more fluid through the bowl of the toilet. It must always be added through the tank filler cap.

## Storage

Bedding is normally stowed in the lockers above the driver, and under the sofa.

The sofa base is released by depressing a lever under the front edge. You can either pull the sofa fully out and reach down the back of the base cushion, or once the back rest has been pushed off the base cushion, you can grasp the front edge of the base cushion and lift it on a complex hinge mechanism, so that it is upright.

You must first move the drivers seat forward out of the way and lifting the cushion requires the use of both hands to keep the cushion level as it goes up.

In cold weather, some condensation may form inside lockers, and bedding may need to be aired before use.

It is a good idea to avoid putting any dirty items in these lockers so that bedding stays clean.

## **Lounging**

The sofa has a “lounging” position. Press the latch in the centre front of the sofa, and pull the base cushion forwards about 10 cm. The bottom of the backrest should follow and adopt an inclined position that is more comfortable for relaxing.

When you need more space for walking around, simply push the sofa back.

## **Beds**

The double bed is made simply by lifting the latch on the front centre of the sofa and pulling it towards you.

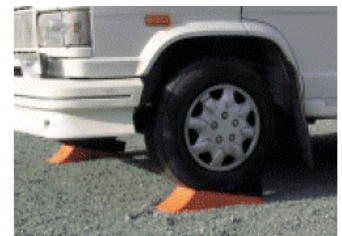
## **Windows**

The windows are supported in the open position by a ratchet mechanism, which prevents the window closing under its own weight. You must fully open the window before the ratchet will allow it to close.

The window behind the driver is directly above the boiler flue, so a safety switch is fitted which prevents the boiler from operating when this window is open.?

## **Levelling.**

If you don't have a level place to park, you can use levelling ramps to lift one end (or one side) of the van. The ramps are stowed behind the drivers seat. You should drive forward onto the ramps, and make sure that you firmly apply the handbrake and engage 1<sup>st</sup> gear.



## **Safe**

There is a key-lockable safe under the passenger seat,

## Awning

The side door must be shut before opening the awning otherwise they collide.

Do not use the awning in strong winds, or leave the vehicle with the awning out when strong winds might arise in your absence.

Once the awning is in position the door can be used normally.

A switch at the back of the passenger doorframe operates the awning electrically.

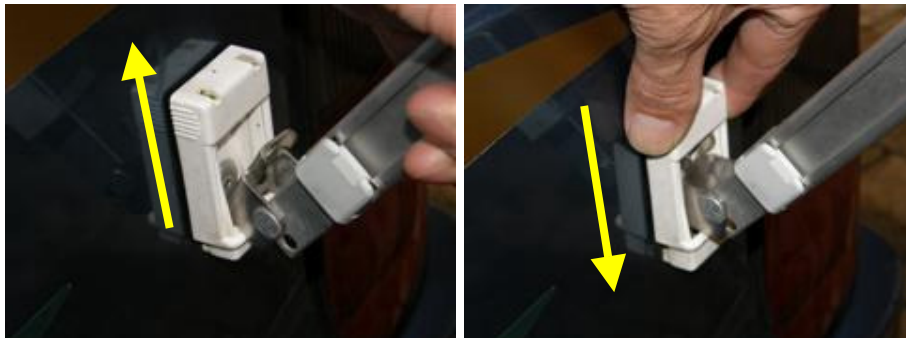
When it is extended by about one metre, pause to put the struts in place.



The struts are hidden in the bottom edge of the awning frame.

Swing them down taking care not to let them scratch the bodywork.

Lift the sides of the white slide latches, and insert the strut as shown



Then slide the latch down to lock the strut in place.

Continue to extend the awning, push the struts to the require length, and lock them to that length.

## Picnic

The table can be used outside, and there are two camp folding chairs under the sofa.

# Setting Up On Site

## 4 Connecting to LPG



Most motor caravans have an externally accessed locker designed to carry one or more LPG cylinders. Cylinders are usually blue (Butane) or red (Propane). The two types of LPG function in a very similar manner, but Butane is only effective at temperatures above freezing, whereas Propane can still gas at temperatures well below freezing. They require different regulators, which you must remember if swapping types from summer to winter. However, if you do caravan all year round, including in sub-zero temperatures, you might just as well stick with Propane. The most commonly used size of cylinder in caravans is 7 kg Butane and 6 kg Propane, but some motor caravans have a locker that will only accommodate smaller cylinders.

All but the smallest Butane cylinders have a simple clip on regulator that should have the instructions stamped on it or supplied with it. Smaller Butane and all Propane cylinders need an appropriate spanner for connection so make sure you keep one in a safe place. Before connecting, ensure all the gas appliances in the motor caravan are switched off. Also ensure

there are no naked flames about, then remove the safety cap on the cylinder and fit the regulator. If using a spanner don't over tighten Butane connections, although with Propane you should ensure it is really tight. Be careful not to cross-thread, and remember to check whether a left or right hand thread. When on securely, you can open the valve: anticlockwise for handwheels, clockwise for clip-ons. You can now check the hob will light and, if not using mains electricity, switch your water heater and refrigerator operation to gas.

To disconnect or change a cylinder, ensure all gas appliances are switched off and reverse the above procedure.

On the newest motor caravans, you may find the regulator is fixed to the bulkhead of the gas locker, and is suitable for both Butane and Propane. In this case, the regulator is connected to the gas cylinder using a flexible hose which attaches in a similar way to that described for separate regulators.

# Servicing the Toilet



1. This job is not as bad as you might expect.
2. Make sure that the slide valve in the bottom of the toilet pan is closed. (Push the lever towards the back of the van).
3. Move outside, and open the toilet compartment.
4. Lift the yellow latch and withdraw the grey tank.
5. At the disposal point, stand the tank upright, (this keeps the runners on the bottom clean), and swivel the neck upwards.
6. Remove the yellow cap, and pour away the contents.
7. When you have begun to pour, press down the yellow air vent button with your thumb (to avoid splashing).
8. **Don't** press the yellow button until you have tipped the tank, and the button is above the liquid level.
9. Rinse the tank with clean water until it runs clear.
10. Use the yellow cap to measure 60ml of toilet fluid into the tank.
11. Top up with two litres of water.
12. **Never** add more fluid through the bowl of the toilet. It must always be added through the tank filler cap.



## Toilet Flush Tank

The toilet has its own storage tank for the flush water.



The flush water is replenished using the hosepipe, adding pink flushing additive at the rate of 30ml per 10 litres of water.

The flush water tank holds 15 litres, and the waste holding tank is 20 litres.

# Inventory

- Aerial -fixed omni-directional for TV with signal amplifier
- Awning Electric
- Bin flip-top green
- Bottle opener, corkscrew
- Bowls cereal ceramic 4
- Bowls glass round nesting set 2
- Can opener
- Car radio/CD player with removable front (does not play MP3 discs).
- Chopping board white
- Cleaner liquid all-purpose
- Diesel tank full
- Dishcloth foam sponge 2
- Dust pan and brush
- Fan-heater
- Fire extinguisher
- First aid kit
- Frying pan
- Gas cylinder
- Glasses tumblers 2
- Glasses wine plastic 2
- Heater thermostatic mains electric fan
- Heater gas-fired blown air.
- Hose pipe and screw tap connector
- Kettle with whistle
- Kitchen worktop extension
- Knife kitchen 1 large, 1 small
- Knives, Forks, spoons, teaspoons x5
- Levelling Ramps 2
- Mains lead adaptor 16A-13A
- Mains lead orange 16A 25metre
- Microwave oven with glass dish
- Modem USB 3g and cable (extra)
- Mug ceramic 4
- **Optional:** two sleeping bags, two pillows.
- Peeler
- Picnic chairs folding 2
- Plate dinner 3
- Plate side 4
- Saucepans 3
- Scissors
- Soap, hand liquid
- Spatula wooden 2
- Spirit level
- Table indoor/outdoor
- Thermometer, fridge freezer
- Toilet fluid bottle 1
- Toilet rinse fluid bottle 1
- Toilet rolls 2
- Torch Yellow
- Towels tea 3
- Vest hi-viz 1
- Washing up bowl
- Washing up brush and green scotchbrite
- Washing up liquid
- Water bottle, drinking water, 5-litre