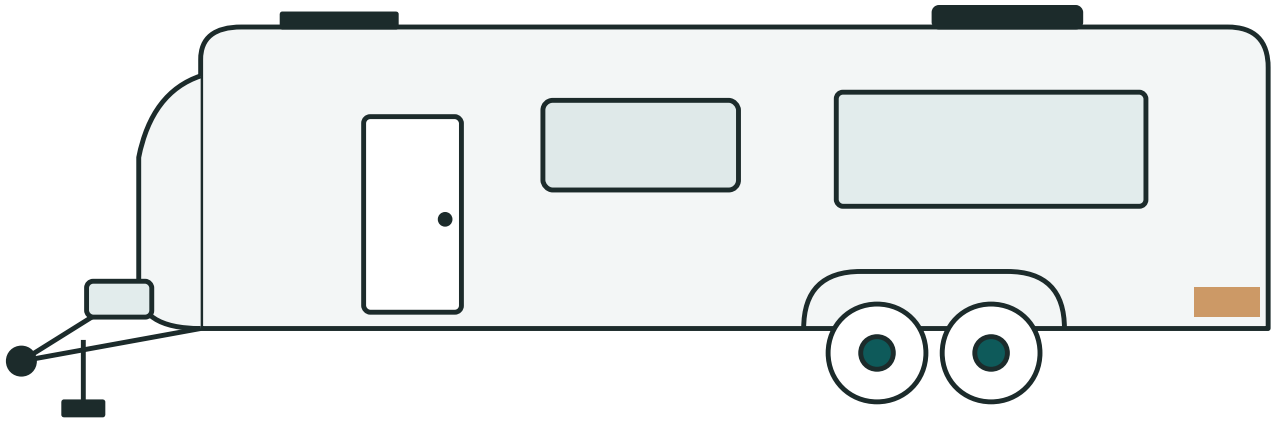
TOWABLE CHECKLISTS

Forest River Wildwood 26DBUD 2026 (new)

Model-Specific RV Buyer's Guide and Self-Inspection Checklist

New-rig edition: dealer walk-through and acceptance



Drawn for this guide, not a manufacturer's image. Two axles shown: Forest River doesn't list the axle count (RVGuide, a third-party site, says 2).

WHAT'S INSIDE

- **9 pre-inspection checks you do from home**: VIN (vehicle identification number) and recall lookup, warranty terms and registration, what to get in writing, and dealer questions with answer lines
- **25 sections, 192 numbered checks** in walk-around order, each with OK / Problem / N/A / Couldn't-check boxes and a notes line
- **Severity on every check**: Deal-breaker, Due bill or Note, printed as labels so they read in black and white; the 11 deal-breakers are flagged where you check them
- **2026 Wildwood records**: six NHTSA (federal vehicle-safety agency) recalls (certain units, by build date) and three bulletins. Four recalls and all three bulletins have a check; the other two recalls are in the recall table only
- **Spec finder**: Forest River's 26DBUD weights, length and water tanks, to compare with the unit's labels and your truck's ratings
- **New-rig checks**: tire age, bearings and brakes, A-frame and frame, moisture, roof sealant, shipping damage, warranty papers and VIN (vehicle identification number)
- **Sources and limits**: all read 2026-11-23. Forest River's 26DBUD web page is a Wayback Machine copy (2025-11-17); its owner's manual is a general towable manual (PDF created 2012), not one written for this model; axle count and fridge power come only from RVGuide, a third-party site
- **Walk-through plan**: what the dealer should have ready, tools with purposes, time estimates and a walk-around map
- **Decision pages**: acceptance page with a dealer due-bill (we-owe) list, 3-RV comparison, and a deal-breaker summary with page numbers

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201 checks: 9 from home, 192 on the lot

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Spec finder: 2026 Wildwood 26DBUD

The unit's own labels win

Figures from Forest River's own 2026 26DBUD print spec page (FRSPEC26). **The unit's own labels win every time.** Forest River calls UVW (unloaded vehicle weight: the trailer's weight as built) and CCC "Estimated Average based on standard build optional equipment". Also on FRSPEC26: height 11 ft 3 in; width 96 in; awning 18 ft. Forest River: "Each Forest River RV is weighed at the manufacturing facility prior to shipping" and labeled with its own weight and cargo carrying capacity. Check your truck's towing and hitch ratings against the label's GVWR and hitch weight (1.2).

Source codes: FRSPEC26 = Forest River's 2026 Wildwood 26DBUD print spec page (forestriverinc.com), read 2026-11-23.

Floorplan	UVW lb	Hitch lb	GVWR lb	CCC lb	Length	Fresh gal	Gray gal	Black gal	Sources
MY2026 · Forest River's 2026 Wildwood 26DBUD									
26DBUD	6,923	795	9,595	2,672	33 ft 3 in	40	60	30	FRSPEC26

01 Paperwork, VIN, title & recalls

Where you're standing: At the dealer's desk

6 checks
~7 min (estimate)
1 deal-breaker

The VIN lookup and the warranty questions happen at home (pre-inspection, pages 5–7). At the dealer, match the paperwork to the trailer before you look at anything else: the VIN on the label, the buyer's order and the MSO (manufacturer's statement of origin) or title paperwork.

Good signs: VIN matches everywhere, the buyer's order lists this unit, dated repair orders for each recall that applies.

RECALL **RECALLS THAT NAME THE 2026 WILDWOOD**

NHTSA lists six. Each says **certain** units, set by build date. Four have a check here: **25V682** battery wire (built on or before Jun 06, 2025) at 12.7; **26V352** fireplace outlet (2026 units built Dec 11, 2025 – Mar 03, 2026) at 17.2; **26V439** placard GVWR (built Sep 10, 2025 – Jun 19, 2026) at 1.3; **25V707** tire label (built Oct 03, 2024 – Aug 27, 2025) at 7.6. **25V425** (rear patio door latch) and **25V708** (exterior griddle) name other floorplans in their remedy instructions (ROOST43; WBT301FAM), not the 26DBUD. Your VIN decides all six (check P.2).

#	Check	Severity	OK	Problem	N/A	Couldn't check	Notes / photo #
1.1	DEAL-BREAKER CHECK **VIN on the label matches the MSO or title** **What to look for:** Find the 17-character VIN on the trailer's certification label and check it against the title or MSO (manufacturer's statement of origin), character by character. Photograph the label and read the 17 characters off the photo, where you can zoom in. **Red flags:** Any mismatch, a missing or damaged label, or no title or MSO to compare. Source: General tip	DEAL-BREAKER	☐	☐	☐	☐	

Campaign	What	MY	Which units	Remedy	Applies	RO seen	Open / unknown
26V352	Fireplace outlet may have the incorrect wiring, a fire risk; the reported warning: "A user may notice the smell of smoke when using the fireplace."	2024–2026	Certain 2026 Wildwood trailers built Dec 11, 2025 – Mar 03, 2026 (13 units); the posted remedy instructions name only 2024–2025 floorplans, not the 2026 ones	Dealer replaces the wiring and outlet, free	Record at 17.2		
	Build dates: 2026 Wildwood: Dec 11, 2025 - Mar 03, 2026 (RCLRPT-26V352-2474) **Warning sign the manufacturer reported:** A user may notice the smell of smoke when using the fireplace. (RCLRPT-26V352-2474)				**What the repair adds:** A new 110-volt, 15-amp outlet wired with 14-gauge cable through a junction box behind the fireplace (RCRIT-26V352-3788) **Fixed so far (NHTSA's count for the whole recall):** 258 of 2,338 units repaired; 0 unreachable, 0 removed (NHTSA quarterly report, 2026 Q3) (RCLQRT-26V352-6481, Oct 26, 2026)		
26V439	Federal placard may show the wrong GVWR (gross vehicle weight rating), so the trailer fails to comply with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS) number 120, "Wheels and Rims - Other than Passenger Cars."	2026–2027	Certain 2026 Wildwood trailers built Sep 10, 2025 – Jun 19, 2026 (5 units); no floorplan named	Dealer installs a corrected label, free	Record at 1.3		
	Build dates: 2026 Wildwood: Sep 10, 2025 - Jun 19, 2026 (RCLRPT-26V439-5547) **Warning sign the manufacturer reported:** None listed (RCLRPT-26V439-5547)				**What the repair adds:** The dealer installs a new federal placard (RCLRPT-26V439-5547) **Fixed so far (NHTSA's count for the whole recall):** 8 of 18 units repaired; 0 unreachable, 0 removed (NHTSA quarterly report, 2026 Q3) (RCLQRT-26V439-3303, Oct 26, 2026)		
25V707	Tire information label may list the wrong tire inflation information	2025–2026	Certain Wildwood trailers built Oct 03, 2024 – Aug 27, 2025 (7 units)	Dealer replaces the label, free	Record at 7.6		
	Build dates: 2025-2026 Wildwood: Oct 03, 2024 - Aug 27, 2025 (RCLRPT-25V707-5909) **Warning sign the manufacturer reported:** None listed (RCLRPT-25V707-5909)				**What the repair adds:** The dealer installs a replacement federal placard (RCLRPT-25V707-5909) **Fixed so far (NHTSA's count for the whole recall):** 23 of 23 units repaired; 0 unreachable, 0 removed (NHTSA quarterly report, 2025 Q4) (RCLQRT-25V707-8363, Jan 13, 2026)		
25V425	A travel latch on the outside of the rear patio door can't be unlocked from inside	2025–2026	Certain 2026 Wildwood trailers built Feb 21 – May 30, 2025 (15 units); remedy instructions name only the ROOST43, not the 26DBUD	Dealer removes the latch, free	☐	☐	☐
	Build dates: 2026 Wildwood: Feb 21, 2025 - May 30, 2025 (RCLRPT-25V425-5439) **Warning sign the manufacturer reported:** None listed (RCLRPT-25V425-5439)				**What the repair adds:** The travel latch on the outside of the patio door is removed (remedy instructions: Model(s): ROOST43) (RCRIT-25V425-0900) **Fixed so far (NHTSA's count for the whole recall):** 80 of 126 units repaired; 0 unreachable, 0 removed (NHTSA quarterly report, 2026 Q3) (RCLQRT-25V425-0560, Oct 26, 2026)		
25V708	Exterior griddle may be stowed while still connected to LP gas, a fire risk	2026	Certain 2026 Wildwood trailers built Aug 08 – Sep 18, 2025 (20 units); remedy instructions name only the WBT301FAM (and Salem SBT301FAM), not the 26DBUD	Dealer installs a griddle locking mechanism as needed, free	☐	☐	☐
	Build dates: 2026 Wildwood: Aug 08, 2025 - Sep 18, 2025 (RCLRPT-25V708-2284) **Warning sign the manufacturer reported:** None listed (RCLRPT-25V708-2284)				**What the repair adds:** A red locking mechanism for the griddle (remedy instructions: Model(s): SBT301FAM & WBT301FAM) (RCRIT-25V708-3979) **Fixed so far (NHTSA's count for the whole recall):** 33 of 38 units repaired; 0 unreachable, 0 removed (NHTSA quarterly report, 2026 Q3) (RCLQRT-25V708-8780, Oct 26, 2026)		

Recall coverage is set by VIN range, which we did not read for every campaign: the VIN lookup is the authority, not this table. Four of these six recalls have a check in this guide (25V682, 26V352, 26V439, 25V707); 25V425 and 25V708 name other models in their remedy instructions, so they are in this table only. In the detail rows, RCLRPT is the manufacturer's defect report, RCRIT its remedy instructions and RCLQRT its quarterly progress report; the rest of each ID is NHTSA's file number. A VIN lookup showing no open recalls is not proof the work was done; ask for the dated repair order. Fixed so far is NHTSA's latest count for the whole recall population, from the manufacturer's completion report. It says nothing about this VIN: only the VIN lookup (check P.2) and the dated repair order (1.5) do.

#	Check	Severity	OK	Problem	N/A	Couldn't check	Notes / photo #
2.2	**Roof-to-front-cap joint** **What to look for:** Look along the joint where the roof meets the front cap for separation or cracked sealant. TSB 44-2082's repair says "ENSURE TO PROPERLY SEAL THE FRONT WRAP AND ROOF SEAM": look at that seam for sealant lifting off the roof material (bulletins table, page 14). The 2026 26DBUD has an ".040 Smooth Aluminum Front Cap" and "Aerodynamic Front Radius Profile" (FRWEB26). Forest River's general manual (2012): "Be aware that weather and road vibration will have an effect on seals, causing them to dry, crack or separate." (OM page 39). **Red flags:** Sealant lifting or loose where the front wrap meets the roof seam. Source: TSB 44-2082; FRWEB26; OM page 39	DUE BILL	☐	☐	☐	☐	
2.3	**Sealant around roof fittings** **What to look for:** Bulletin TSB 44-2082 (roof sealant): look at the sealant around every vent, the AC base, the solar prep and each roof fitting, one at a time, and photograph each one. Forest River's bulletin for certain 2026–2027 Wildwood travel trailers: "In certain circumstances, the Alpha Roof Sealant may not adhere to the Impact Guard Roof material." Its repair checks "EVERY SURFACE/COMPONENT THE ROOF SEAL TOUCHES" and notes "IT MAY BE POSSIBLE THAT THE ROOF SEALANT MAY PEEL OFF BY HAND" (bulletins table, page 14). Ask the dealer whether TSB 44-2082 was done on this VIN. **Red flags:** Roof sealant that is loose, lifting or peels off the roof material by hand, or a dealer who can't say whether TSB 44-2082 was done. Source: TSB 44-2082	DUE BILL	☐	☐	☐	☐	
2.4	**Sealant condition** **What to look for:** Look at the sealant's condition: chalky, crazed or many-layered sealant shows age. Forest River's general manual (2012): "If you encounter dry, cracked or weathered seals, reseal or replace as necessary." (OM page 39). **Red flags:** Deep cracks or heavy layering, and no record of when it was done. Source: OM page 39	NOTE	☐	☐	☐	☐	
2.5	**Roof membrane** **What to look for:** Go over the roof membrane (the roof's waterproof skin) from end to end and look for tears, punctures, bubbles and staining. Forest River lists Tufflex PVC roofing and 3/8 in walk-on roof decking (FRWEB26). Forest River's general manual (2012): "IF YOUR ROOF SHOULD BECOME PUNCTURED OR RIPPED, COVER THE PUNCTURE OR TEAR TO SEAL OUT MOISTURE AND HAVE IT REPAIRED IMMEDIATELY." (OM page 40). **Red flags:** Any tear, puncture, bubble, stain, patch or fresh sealant patch on a new roof. Put it on the due bill. Source: FRWEB26; OM page 40	DUE BILL	☐	☐	☐	☐	
2.6	**DEAL-BREAKER CHECK** **Roof firmness (walkable roofs only)** **What to look for:** Walk slowly across the roof where the manufacturer says it is walkable (roof safety line in this section's intro), across the front and around the vents and the AC unit, with the dealer there. Keep your weight spread and stay off cap edges, vents and the AC unit. Forest River lists "3/8" Roof Decking (Walk-On)" and "5" Bowed Truss Roof Rafters" (FRWEB26). **Red flags:** Deck that gives, crackles or feels spongy: water may have reached the roof decking. Source: FRWEB26	DEAL-BREAKER	☐	☐	☐	☐	

Accept, accept with a due bill, or not yet: your decision page

This page sorts what **you** found. The decision is yours (page 2). Go through the pre-inspection lines and each section-end box; list each Problem by check number in one of the three boxes, then check the reminders in the box at right.

Deal-breakers: reasons to stop

Deal-breaker checks you marked Problem (all of them, with pages: sign-off page, page 57; what that means: severity key, page 4).

CHECK #	WHAT YOU FOUND

Due bill: the dealer fixes these

Due-bill checks you marked Problem.

CHECK #	WHAT YOU FOUND

Notes to keep

Small findings for your own to-do list after delivery.

CHECK #	WHAT YOU FOUND

Before you decide, look back at

VIN on the label vs the paperwork: 1.1

Truck ratings vs GVWR and hitch weight: 1.2

Recall repair orders: 1.5 and the recall table (page 12)

What you couldn't check, and why: 25.1; what you weren't allowed to see: 25.2

Professional inspection plan: 25.3

Warranty papers, registration and the due bill: 25.5, 25.6, 25.8

AGREED PRICE $ _____ DUE-BILL ITEMS (COUNT) _____

My decision: ☐ **Accept delivery** ☐ **Accept with a signed due bill** ☐ **Not yet**

WHY, IN ONE OR TWO LINES

_____

_____

TURNING FINDINGS INTO A DUE BILL

- Lead with what you can show: the check number, your photo and a quote. A documented finding is harder to wave away than an impression.
- Open recalls: ask for them to be completed before you take delivery, and get the dated repair order.
- Put every defect the dealer agrees to fix on the due bill, signed and dated, before you accept delivery (sign-off page, page 57).
- A refusal to allow an inspection or run a system is a finding too (record it at 25.2).

Sign-off and dealer due-bill (we-owe) list

DEAL-BREAKER SUMMARY: 11 CHECKS (0 FROM HOME, 11 ON THE WALK-AROUND)

A list to find each one, not a place to mark it: mark each check where it's printed, and copy any Problem to the decision page (page 55). P. = pre-inspection, from home; other numbers are walk-around section.check.

CHECK	DEAL-BREAKER	PAGE
1.1	VIN on the label matches the MSO or title	16
2.6	Roof firmness (walkable roofs only)	19
3.3	Sidewall flatness (delamination)	21
6.2	Slide-room and opening corners	26
14.1	Propane smell check	39
14.2	Soapy-water check on LP fittings	39
14.3	LP leak detector alarms at an LP point	39
17.2	Fireplace on heat: no smell of smoke	43
20.2	Floor firmness	46
20.3	Ceiling and window corners (water signs)	46
22.2	Floor at the toilet and shower	49

INSPECTED BY

DATE AND TIME YOU FINISHED

DEALER REP PRESENT

OTHERS PRESENT

PHOTOS SAVED TO (PHONE ALBUM OR FOLDER)

Due bill (we-owe): defects the dealer agreed to fix, in writing

Check #	What will be fixed	Agreed by	Done by (date)	Done
				☐
				☐
				☐
				☐
				☐
				☐

Get any repair promise in writing on the purchase paperwork. This list is your record, not a contract.

Buyer signature (optional)

Dealer signature (optional)

Sources and version

v1.2, 2026-11-23. NHTSA recalls, Part 573 reports, remedy instructions, complaints, investigations and manufacturer communications for FOREST RIVER WILDWOOD 2026 (api.nhtsa.gov); NHTSA's equipment and tire recall file; Forest River's 2026 Wildwood 26DBUD page (Wayback Machine copy of 2025-11-17), spec page and floorplan drawing, RVGuide (rvguide.com, a third-party listing, for axle count and fridge power mode), its general towable owner's manual (PDF created 2012; not written for this model), its recall search page and its Limited Towable Warranty (Rev 07/23), all read 2026-11-23. Icons: Lucide (ISC license). Illustrations drawn for this buyer's guide and inspection checklist. Not affiliated with or endorsed by Forest River.

20 Interior construction, floors & moisture

Where you're standing: Walking every room with the flashlight and moisture meter

10 checks
~20 min (estimate)
2 deal-breakers

Floors and ceilings tell you where water got in.

Good signs: Flat, firm floors; clean ceilings; firm steps.

#	Check	Severity	OK	Problem	N/A	Couldn't check	Notes / photo #
20.1	**First smell inside** **What to look for:** As you first walk into the closed-up trailer, notice the smell. Forest River's general manual (2012): "As with other indoor pollutants, ventilation should reduce formaldehyde levels." (OM page 43). **Red flags:** Mildew, smoke, pets or sewer. Source: OM page 43	NOTE	☐	☐	☐	☐	
20.2	DEAL-BREAKER CHECK **Every floor underfoot** **What to look for:** Walk every floor slowly. Forest River lists "5/8" Tongue & Groove Plywood Floor Decking" and "2" x 3" Floor Joists 12" on Center" (FRWEB26): a soft spot is worth a question. **Red flags:** Bubbles or lifting in the flooring, or soft spots. A soft subfloor is a Deal-breaker finding. Squeaks alone are Notes. Source: FRWEB26	DEAL-BREAKER	☐	☐	☐	☐	
20.3	DEAL-BREAKER CHECK **Ceilings and moisture readings** **What to look for:** Take moisture readings at the ceiling corners, the window corners, around the roof vents and the AC, and under the front cap inside (method: 6.3). Press gently on the wallboard with a flat hand at each spot. Forest River's general manual (2012): "Mold occurs when condensation is left for prolonged periods of time and is extremely difficult to kill." (OM page 19). **Red flags:** A reading clearly higher than your baseline, or soft or bubbled wallboard. Note any stain or patch that looks newer if you see one. Soft and wet together is a Deal-breaker finding. Source: OM page 19	DEAL-BREAKER	☐	☐	☐	☐	
20.4	**Closets and cabinets** **What to look for:** Open each closet and cabinet, smell, and look in the back corners with the flashlight. Photograph any spot; don't wipe it away. Forest River's general manual (2012): "Do not place heavy items in the overhead cabinets." (OM page 14). **Red flags:** A musty smell, mold, or water rings in the back corners. Source: OM page 14	DUE BILL	☐	☐	☐	☐	
20.5	**Wall panels and trim** **What to look for:** Look along the wall panels and trim. **Red flags:** Seams separating, or trim pulling away. Source: General tip	DUE BILL	☐	☐	☐	☐	
20.6	**Floor seams (sawdust signs)** **What to look for:** With the flashlight at floor level, look along the wall-to-floor seams in the living areas (bedroom: 23.1). **Red flags:** Sawdust or wood dust: it can mean parts rubbing or moving. Source: General tip	DUE BILL	☐	☐	☐	☐	