

Syncro Safari

Vehicle Preparation List - Vanagon Syncro

- 1. Tires:** Tires must be at least the "All-Terrain" variety. I recommend a minimum size of 27X8.50 14LT. For a Syncro, all four tires must be the same size and model to avoid damage to your van's viscous coupling. Also your SPARE must also match the wheels on the ground for you to be able to use it without damaging your VC. Make sure that all tires have at least 1/8" tread
- 2. Wheels:** Make sure that all lug nuts/bolts are in place and tightened properly
- 3. Tire clearance:** Make sure that tires will not rub body in any position. This will not be a problem unless your tires are larger than the 27" variety.
- 4. Bumper overhangs:** How low are your bumpers? Is there a trailer hitch or other items that hang down below the bumpers?
- 5. Tow hooks:** Make certain that you have frame mounted hooks or some sort of attachment shackle to allow you to attach tow straps or chains to, front & back.
- 6. Spare tire:** Is the tread good on the spare tire? Does it have air? Does it match the other wheels? A very close size match is very important for a Syncro.
- 7. Jack & tire tools:** Of course a functional jack & lug wrench are required to change a tire. You should also have a tire "patch kit". I recommend the one called "Safety Seal Tire Plugger".
- 8. Rearview mirrors:** Notice that they fold back for additional clearance.
- 9. Antennas:** Notice that the radio antenna retracts to avoid entanglement. Do you have a CB antenna mounted on the roof? If so, you may need to bring it down for low overhanging branches on the trail.
- 10. Windshield wipers:** Are they in good shape both front & back?

- 11. Windshield washer(s):** Is there fluid in the tank(s)? Do all the washers squirt properly?
- 12. Suspension:** Is it in good shape? Does it need any repair?
- 13. Rain gutters:** Notice that they have removable moldings which can get scraped off.
- 14. Seat belts:** There must be a belt for each passenger. Are they all in good condition & function properly?
- 15. Four wheel drive:** Does your viscous coupling lock properly? Does your LOW gear function properly?
- 16. Rear Differential Lock:** Does your van have one? Is it functioning properly?
- 17. Low points:** What are the lowest items under the vehicle? Notice where these low points located, both front to back and side to side. This should help you place your van properly to avoid hitting them on rocks.