



Guide to... STATIC CARAVANS

If you find yourselves returning to a favourite place year after year, it might be time to invest in a static. Here's how to make the switch!

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STATICS vs HOLIDAY HOMES vs LODGES

If you're planning to invest in a long-term holiday base, you'll need to consider your options for the type of property that will suit you best

ONE MISCONCEPTION regarding static caravans is that most customers think you can live in them. In fact, this is both correct and incorrect.

A brief stroll down memory lane will help to explain why many people think along these lines.

The static caravan, as it became known, emerged from the touring caravan. When caravanning became more affordable in the mid to late 1930s, small campsites began to make an appearance, mainly in seaside locations, but also on farms.

Touring caravanners on their travels would spot a caravan in a good location and ask if they could pitch up there, too. The lack of much in the way of planning regulations meant that tourers could be

simply left where the owners were given permission, and used as a static base.

Now if we fast forward to the end of World War II, when housing was in very short supply in this country, caravans were being recognised as an ideal form of short-term accommodation.

Static caravans

By the 1950s, bigger caravans, 18ft long or more, were being made for living in, and these were fitted with solid-fuel stoves and given a paved pitch.

However, poor sanitation and rubbish disposal meant that caravan-dwelling acquired a dubious reputation, and new laws were introduced to bring in better sites for the now-residential owners.

Holiday sites, meanwhile, had limited opening times – usually April to October – and their caravans were designed for short-term use only, so they were pretty basic, and often cold.

By the 1960s, residential parks were becoming firmly established, with the growing market sparking new designs, some of them extremely architectural in appearance. Mobile homes were no longer classed as statics, and although they could be moved to another park, most stayed put until they were replaced.

The static caravan also grew in size, and larger sites began to provide cafés, shops and sometimes even a bar.

Bearing that history in mind, we come to the present day, and the market is still >>

'Massive strides have been made in caravan construction and spec, and their interiors now often resemble modern domestic homes'



1
Early sites looked like this, with large tourers becoming statics

Photo courtesy of Holgate Group



1 By the 1960s, statics were growing in width, from 7ft 6in to 9ft 6in **2** The holiday home was often confused with the caravan, but it's an entirely different construction, as this 1968 twin unit shows **3** Unlike statics, holiday homes are a much more permanent structure **4** Static caravans are fully insulated throughout, including the floors

developing. Compared to a decade or so ago, massive strides have been made in caravan construction and specification, and their interiors now often resemble modern domestic homes.

But remember when we said you could live in a static caravan, and you couldn't? Well, here's why: caravans from most UK manufacturers can be ordered in what is known as 'residential spec', which is the same as a holiday home or the ever more popular holiday lodge.

Insulation standard EN 1647 applies for static caravans, but they can be supplied as park (holiday) homes, which comply with the higher-standard BS 3632.

Holiday homes

Residential parks have become havens for retired people, who often sell their house to buy a park home (some still call them caravans – they are not!).

The days when families often lived on parks are now gone, and the rules and regulations mean that most residents tend to be couples and singles.

Visitors are, of course, allowed, so the grandchildren can come to stay, and pets are also permitted at most residential parks – although you do need to check through the specific rules beforehand.

Many residential parks are in stunning locations, and holiday home owners also often say they enjoy the security of living in more of a 'village' community.

Most holiday homes are twin units (basically, two halves joined together) and most measure 40ft x 20ft and rather resemble a modern bungalow.

Gardens, driveways and Tarmac roads are the norm, and the park home can be sold on as a property on its plot. Rates and mains supplies are charged, as well as rent. The park home is fully fitted out with furniture and (usually) white goods, while some manufacturers will carry out bespoke modifications to standard models if a buyer wants a more personal touch.

The modern static incorporates the latest design trends, offering space and comfort. It can also be moved more easily, although most will be left on site. Mains

connections and exterior additions such as decking make statics the ideal holiday or weekend retreat for many.

They also come with double glazing and central heating, and because many sites open for 11 months a year, owners can use them for longer, getting more value out of their investment. But do note that some site-owners class units as old at five years, and may ask you to replace them.

Holiday lodges

These days, another option is the holiday lodge. These are more like buildings, in which more hardwearing exterior finishes replace aluminium cladding, and they are usually made to the BS 3632 standard.

Lodges can be either single or twin; basically, a bungalow-style construction that is transported in two separate halves and then assembled on site.

So for general holiday use, the static is a great choice, but if you're planning on downsizing for retirement, park home ownership is an excellent option – with lower running costs than a house.

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CHOOSING THE RIGHT STATIC CARAVAN

There's a lot to think about before you decide on the model that will best meet your requirements. Here's what to look out for

IT'S A MAJOR INVESTMENT, so buying a static caravan requires a fair amount of homework. That way, you can be sure, when you hand over your hard-earned cash, you're making the right decision.

A sensible place to start your research is by considering how you plan to use your static. Will you invite family and friends to spend time with you? If so, how many bedrooms and washrooms will you need?

You'll also need to think carefully about storage capacity, size and specification.

How about heating? Will you want to use your static late into the season? All of these questions will need to be asked and answered beforehand.

Visit the dealers

When you are shopping around for a touring caravan, you can visit plenty of dealerships and browse a huge selection of models before you buy.

However, when you are researching statics, there are fewer dealers to choose from. This is mainly down to the question of space, because statics have grown in size over the years. Gone are the days of the 1960s, when 9ft 6in was seen as the ultimate width in static design.

Today, models of 14ft wide and 38ft-plus long are pretty much the norm, so a very large display area is needed.

There are dealers operating in this field, though – one such is Salop Leisure, based in Shrewsbury, which has a sales area dedicated to static caravans. The models are displayed on plots, with grass, and the area is set up along the lines of a site. This helps to give customers a better idea of how their static would look when set up.

Research the brands

When you have decided what you want in terms of size, layout and berths, the next thing to consider is the brand.

The UK is a manufacturing hub for statics, so there are plenty to choose from.

Major brands include Willerby, Swift, ABI, Atlas, Carnaby, Pemberton and Victory. These well-established names offer a good spread of models, covering all budgets, sizes, layouts and spec.

There are also smaller manufacturers, such as Delta, Arronbrook, Europa and Love, who have a selection of layouts and sizes, catering for a range of prices.

Budget and pitch size

A key factor in making the choice is your budget, and the pitch size at your planned site. Once you have settled those, it's time to start some serious shopping around.

You'll also find several manufacturers producing special versions of established models, which they build for particular sites and dealerships.

This is worth taking into consideration, because they offer improved spec, such as Bluetooth radio, and can be fitted with patio doors rather than the standard bay window found in entry-level models.

Another point to bear in mind is that manufacturers also often produce value packs, which are offered as optional additions to their standard models.

Buying pre-owned

If you're new to static caravan ownership, you might want to consider a pre-owned model. There are always used statics for sale on sites or at dealers, but the usual caveats apply about carefully checking their condition before you buy.

Essentials, such as damp, the electrics and boiler servicing, all need checking.

Another important point is the age of the model you're considering. Some sites have a strict age limit for statics – so you might find yourself having to sell on again after only a couple of years.

An alternative route into static caravan ownership is to consider ex-hire models. Some parks will sell off their letting fleet statics at four years old or thereabouts, and these can prove a bargain buy.

Ex-hire models

If you are thinking about an ex-hire model, it's important to inspect the condition. There will, of course, be signs of general wear and tear, although responsible site owners ensure their holiday lets are kept in good overall shape. Any damage should have been put right, in any event.

Think, too, about the amount of use it has had – especially if it's on a popular site. Most statics are hired by families, so they get a lot of hard use in peak times. Always examine closely for anything that's likely to cause a problem later on.

Ask the site owner if any warranty is available and if so, for how long and what it covers. And ask for the manuals – the site owner should still have them.

Look for valuable extras

Most ex-hire statics will be entry-level models, so they won't come with much in the way of luxury fittings. However, some sites have deluxe statics for hire, for customers who want extras, such as patio doors and freestanding sofas.

You'll also find that some larger sites buy entry-level models, then add central heating, a microwave, and possibly even a dishwasher. Prices will reflect this.

Site owners might also have pre-owned decking, and could offer you a deal.

Older statics can sometimes look a bit dated, for example with gas fires in the lounge. But as a first step on the ladder of owning a static caravan, a good pre-owned unit can make sense. It is possible to buy a sited, pre-owned, private static for about £14,000, depending on size and so on. >>



'A sensible place to start your research is by considering how you plan to use your static caravan'



- 1** Residential parks have proper roads and night lighting, and are more like small housing estates
- 2** Lodges are usually twin units, placed in exclusive lodge parks, but built to park home standards
- 3** Modern statics offer contemporary interiors and large living spaces, and follow the latest design trends
- 4** Some park homes are on small parks, of only around 10 plots
- 5** Typical park home kitchen and dining area, supplied fully furnished



6



7



8

6 Salop Leisure, in Shrewsbury, has a static caravan display that gives you an idea of how they look on site

7 If you're buying pre-owned, check manuals are available and servicing, such as the boiler, is all up-to-date

8 Ex-hire statics can be a good buy, even older models such as this, if you want to try out ownership before deciding to purchase a new model

'New statics have smart, comfortable interiors, designed very much as a home from home'

Buying new

If you're looking at buying a new model, some sites will have one on a pitch, all plumbed in and virtually ready to use, with an all-in price.

Don't forget that your budget will need to include site set-up fees, which can vary from place to place. If decking is required, that can be quite expensive, too, but for some, it's going to be a must-have.

Look out for sites selling statics in a separate area, usually at the entrance. They can normally order the model you want, if you prefer a particular brand.

New statics have smart, comfortable interiors, designed very much as a home from home. You'll often find that options on lower-priced models will be fitted as standard on more expensive ones, offering items such as a dishwasher, washer/dryer, microwave and central heating.

These days, lighting is by LEDs, while USBs are also a common fitting in new statics. Although gas still features for the hob, oven and boiler, very few new models will be sold without central heating, which is considered pretty much an essential, especially for those who plan to use their caravan early or late in the season.

Understandably, the lounge is a major selling point in most statics these days; entry-level models tend to have fixed seating, simply designed and built in.

The dining area might also feature built-in seating. Beds might be slightly lower quality than you'd find at home, and the washrooms are often more basic, but if you have the budget, you could think about adding some options.

Mid-market and higher-priced models will come with separate, domestic-style settees and chairs, plusher fittings and front patio doors. Their kitchens are also usually better equipped, with the spec including a dishwasher, washing machine and perhaps even a wine cooler.

One option that we would recommend, particularly if you're pitched on a coastal site, is a galvanised chassis. Entry-level models will have a standard painted one, but a galvanised chassis is worth having, because it will cut down on the need for painting maintenance in years to come.

If you're planning to invite friends and family to stay, you're likely to be looking at a two- or three-bedroom layout.

Most standard-width statics are now 12ft or 14ft wide, although on some older,

smaller parks, space could be limited on pitches, so 10ft-wide models are also available in some ranges.

Lengthwise, 30-38ft is a popular choice, accommodating two or three bedrooms, and most include a full en-suite bathroom in the main bedroom.

Check the rooms are a size that you're comfortable with, though, because some twin rooms are more suited to children, especially in a three-bedroom layout.

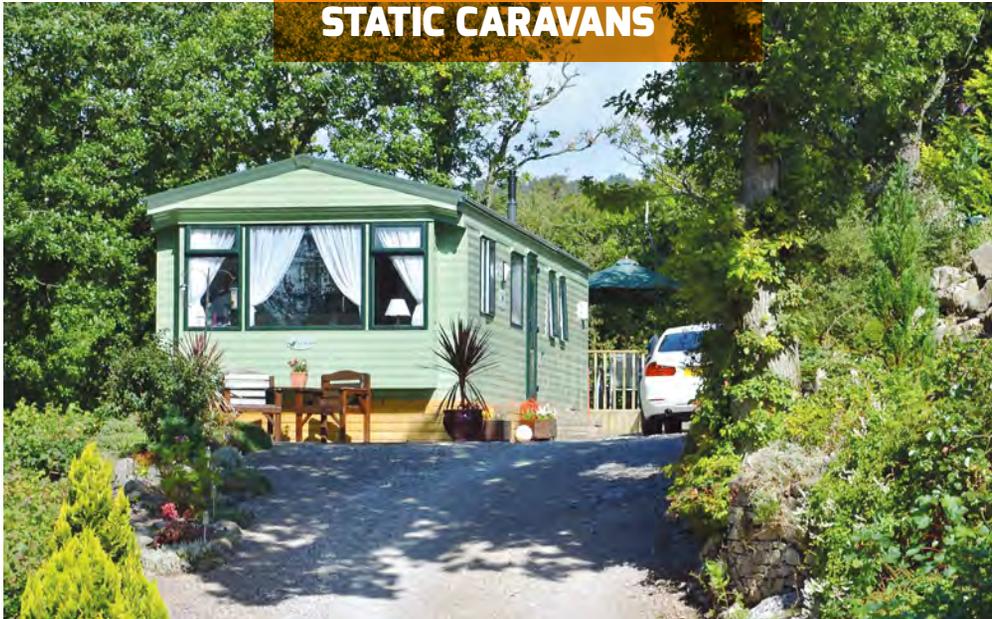
If you plan to use your static in colder weather, it would be a good idea to look at the options list again, for the additional insulation complying with BS 3632.

Going large

If your budget permits and pitches on your chosen site allow for larger units, your next option is a twin unit, usually known as a lodge and using CanExel cladding, rather than ribbed aluminium.

You'll also find that various exterior finishes and colours are used on statics (although some parks only allow green).

But whether you're buying new or used, there's plenty of choice in both style and layouts, so you should be able to find the perfect model to suit your needs.



Static sites vary, with some providing plots in small glades, rather than regimented lines

CHOOSING A SITE FOR YOUR STATIC CARAVAN

Setting up a static is a long-term plan, so finding the right location is as important as selecting the model that will best meet your needs

SEASIDE OR COUNTRY? How far from home? Quiet site? Facilities? These are all questions that you need to ask yourself when choosing a site, to avoid buying a static in a location that turns out not to be ideal – perhaps because it doesn't have interesting places to visit nearby, or the site amenities aren't up to scratch. Selecting the right site is a significant part of successful static caravan ownership.

Check out the top sites

So this is definitely a decision that has to be taken with great care. Checking the *Top 100 Sites Guide* will be a major help, with its wealth of information on sites' size, type, facilities and location.

You can also learn a lot about sites and their surroundings by simply chatting to site owners and static caravan residents, who will have inside information.

An important point to consider is how you're going to use your static. Will you be visiting for weekends and short breaks, or longer stays? It seems some folk are

'You can learn a lot about sites and their surroundings by simply chatting to site owners and static caravan residents'

choosing to use their static for monthly stays, only going home to pick up their post and cut the grass, while others prefer to visit for weekends only, going abroad for their longer breaks.

If you're planning mainly weekends and short breaks, it's a good idea to look for a site that's not too far from home, so the drive won't be too time-consuming.

Bear in mind, too, that some sites are for statics only, which means that friends with touring caravans and motorhomes won't be able to visit you there.

Seasonal pitches

These days, plenty of sites accommodating touring caravans also provide longer-term seasonal pitches, a relatively recent idea where a tourer is pitched as 'semi-static'.

Many static caravan residents began as touring caravanners, before switching to seasonal pitching. It's a natural step for those who find themselves returning to a favourite site and area, time after time. The trend started years ago, when these >>



owners began leaving their tourers on site over longer periods, only removing them for storage during the winter months.

As touring caravans grew in size, it was understandable that their owners began to keep them on site all year round. A fee would be agreed for the whole season, hence the term 'seasonal pitch'.

Seasonal pitching offered the best of both worlds for owners who wanted a longer-term base, but liked to retain their option to move to another site at some stage, if they fancied a change.

However, according to site managers, a majority of people on seasonal pitches eventually look at a static. With a static, they get more space, plumbed-in sewerage and home-from-home accommodation.

Sites and pitches

Choosing the ideal site and pitch for your static caravan is obviously going to be a very personal decision.

For example, you might prefer a site that is small and quiet, with perhaps just a basic reception area. These sorts of sites are plentiful, and of course, fees will be generally cheaper than they would be if you go for a venue with more amenities, such as a clubhouse, swimming pool, gym and children's entertainment.

If you're planning on basing yourselves in a popular holiday destination, such as the Lake District, site fees will be higher than those in regions further away from the attractions and scenic landscapes.

There are plenty of superb parks around the UK's glorious coastline, too, so if you fancy a seaside location, you'll find many great places to choose from.

Many of these sites have direct access to the beach, which is a major plus point, especially for younger families.

With such a superb variety of scenery in the UK, many sites will be set in lovely landscapes, with plenty of attractions close by. So if you're looking at an area you don't know very much about, as well as researching the sites, take a good look at the surroundings, too.

Sense of community

Another huge benefit of finding the right location is the sense of community and sociability the lifestyle offers. Many static owners will tell you that they have formed life-long friendships this way.

If you choose a site with a café/bar, for example, you'll find a friendly community gathering there, adding to its appeal.

When you're thinking about pitches, bear in mind that if you're after a dream view, such places are almost certain to be more expensive than a standard spot.

It's also a good idea to check if your chosen pitch is close to privately owned statics, or hire caravans. If you prefer to keep the same neighbours, being located near the hire fleet, with different people coming and going every week, isn't ideal.



'Another huge benefit of finding the right location is the sociability the lifestyle offers. Many static owners form life-long friendships'

Pets... and children

When it comes to your pets – another important consideration – check dogs are allowed on your chosen site. Usually they are, with the only stipulation being that certain breeds are excluded. Check the fees, too, as some sites will charge you more for bringing your dog.

If you are a dog-owner, another point to factor into your research is whether the site has a special area designated for dogs. This is where your pet can be walked and let off the lead for general exercise.

These days, many campsites cater for pet-owners, with dog-walks and even doggy showers. For static owners, gated decking should mean your dog can be allowed outside the van, but do check, and go and see the designated area, too.



If you have youngsters in the family, a play area is essential for the children to run about and let off steam. Some sites have a grassed area for ball games, along with a separate play zone with swings and slides; again, this is something to check when you are looking at potential sites.

Fees and age limits

More than ever these days, your choice of site will be influenced by your budget for fees. As well as checking current rates, ask the site owner roughly how much they raise their fees each year, so you can take the longer-term costs into account.

Another important point is whether the site has rules about the maximum age of statics that it will accept. For example, if yours is 10 years old when you buy it on

a site, you might find that after five years, they would review it for replacement.

If you are planning to keep your static for a long time – say, 10 years or more – you'll need to look for a site offering agreements of up to 25 years.

Some sites will tell you that they have no age limit on statics they accommodate, although if any owner neglected their unit, they would certainly be asked to replace it with a newer model.

In addition, read through the site's general rules – they include important points, such as how many cars you are allowed to have parked on your pitch.

There's a lot to think about here, and doing your homework before you buy is time-consuming, but it's also the only way to ensure your choice is just right.

1 Seasonal pitch users will often step up to purchasing a static if they like the site and the surrounding area

2 Check the facilities suit your needs – some provide everything onsite, while others are simpler, offering at most a small shop

3 Coastal locations are, of course, hugely popular, so you will find site fees are higher by the sea

4 If you are buying an older used model, check the site won't expect you to replace it in the near future



ADVICE FROM THE EXPERTS

We asked static caravan owners and site operators about what potential purchasers need to know

SITE MANAGERS say that the first point customers need to take on board before buying a static is that they are purchasing something that will lose value over time, just like many other products.

For the owner, the real value of a static lies in making maximum use of it – and that means enjoying as many weekends and longer breaks as you possibly can. That's why these days, many sites stay open for longer during the year.

Owners and managers all agree that it's essential to familiarise yourselves with the site rules, too. Buyers often assume there are a standard set of regulations, that are the same everywhere. This isn't correct; for example, some sites are adults-only, others limit pets to one per static.

Another key point flagged up by site operators is that if it's going to be an

important factor in your decision to buy, you should check whether private hire, or subletting your static, is permitted by the site. If you hope to make money out of your unit when you're not using it, you need to find out about this first.

For example, if the site owner operates a hire fleet, they may not want residents competing for their business.

Safety considerations

There will be rules covering various safety matters, too. One site only permits the use of gas barbecues, as these are considered less of a risk than open flames.

Static caravan owners also have handy tips, such as steps to take for the winter close-down – this could involve draining off water and standing seat cushions on edge. With damp and cold spells, burst

pipes and mould can be a real problem if your unit is empty for any length of time.

Another important point these days is checking the site's Wi-Fi connectivity. Most sites provide good coverage, because demand for this service is so high.

Bag a bargain

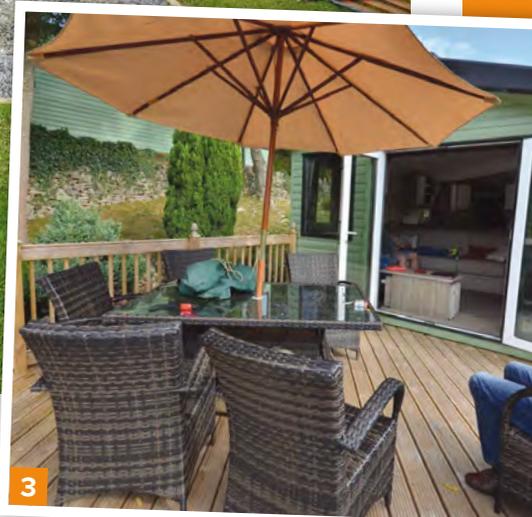
Some static owners recommend buying your unit at the end of the season, to secure yourselves a better deal.

However, bagging a timely bargain isn't always going to be possible, because it all depends on the site owner's margins, and whether they need to shift models that are being superseded by new stock.

Site owners won't discount unless they have to, so bargains are not guaranteed. But one definite advantage of buying at the season's end is that customers won't



'The real value of a static lies in making maximum use of it – enjoying as many weekends and longer breaks as you can'



1 End-of-season sales on sited statics can save you some cash **2** Most sites will have to prepare the plot, even though a static has been there before **3** You'll need space for storing patio furniture, barbecues and so on when you are not using your unit

be using their static until the spring, which gives the park plenty of time to prepare the pitch and connect up the services.

Site managers would also remind buyers that this process of siting and connection adds several thousand pounds to the cost of the unit. Even on an existing pitch, the new static will rarely be an exact fit, and still requires the same amount of set-up.

Buying and selling

Static owners point out that selling the unit is often carried out through the site managers, who might give you trade value only. Selling your static privately on the park is another option, or you could go to the expense of removing it and selling it to a dealer – in which case, transport costs will take a pretty big chunk of any cash you get from the sale.

If you do decide to sell privately, the site owner will still want a percentage of the sale, and most won't let you put a 'For sale' sign in the window, either.

Another alternative is to sell through an agent, but again, they will take a fee

for doing so. This would, of course, save you a lot of legwork in the process.

Sometimes, static owners will want to move to another park altogether, taking their unit with them. If the site they are moving to has a few spare pitches, the managers will be keen to have another static to occupy one of those plots. Some might even come and pick up the unit as part of the deal, if they can provide transport of their own.

Insurance cover

According to quite a few site operators, when it comes to insurance, many static owners don't really take much notice of their policy – until something happens and they need to make a claim.

This could prove to be a costly mistake, and they recommend that all owners take a good look at the clauses and stipulations – for example, are alarms mandatory?

In addition, if you're on a site where high winds can be a problem, your static will need anchor points to stop it blowing over – so be sure to use them.

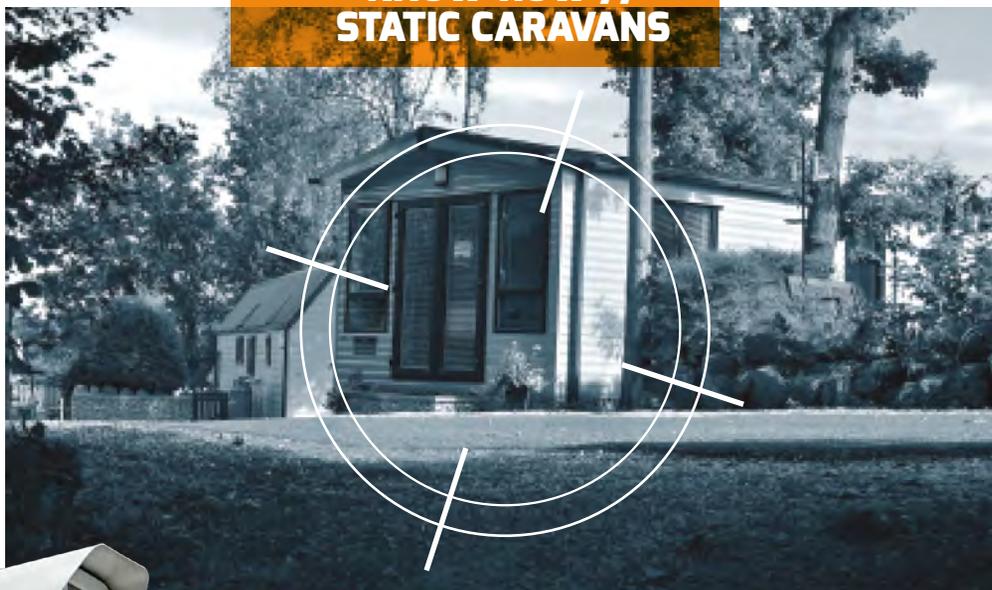
One couple told us that their static was sited close to a river, which flooded. They didn't realise beforehand, but their unit wasn't covered by their insurance policy, because of that nearby river – they hadn't read the small print listing the exclusions. Careful checking of your cover is essential for such a substantial investment.

There are specialised insurers in this sector, who understand what needs to be covered for static owners. For example, this could include such things as patio sets and small sheds, which can be targets for opportunist thieves.

Protect your privacy

It's also worth checking up on local rights of way – one owner told us that they only discovered a public footpath ran right past their static after they moved in, and they felt their privacy was being disturbed.

A definite bonus, pointed out by many owners, is the community spirit you'll find onsite – residents look out for each other and will notice anything untoward. That's a pretty good way to keep your static safe.



KEEP YOUR STATIC SAFE AND SECURE

Valuable properties can be tempting targets for thieves, but there are simple ways to protect your treasured holiday home

YOU MIGHT THINK that because you have never had a break-in at your static, there's no need to fit a security system.

But the sad fact is, opportunist thieves can be a problem on some sites. This is such an unpleasant experience for any static owner, it's one to be avoided if at all possible. The good news is, there are things you can do to deter the criminals and protect your home-from-home.

If your static is based at a large site on a secluded pitch, the chances of a break-in are likely to be higher. Most sites run security systems with barriers and CCTV at the entrance, but they are by nature accessible areas, for example with public footpaths running through.

Make an inventory

Once you have bought a static, you'll find it very quickly becoming a second home, housing a TV, phones, laptops and so on, with other valuable personal belongings stored there, including bikes. So it's a good idea to make a list of items most likely to be stolen, as well as their value.

'Most sites run security systems with barriers and CCTV at the entrance, but they are by nature accessible areas'

Then go outside and note garden tools, patio sets, barbecues (especially those all-singing, all-dancing models) and so on, and check how much it would cost to replace all of them.

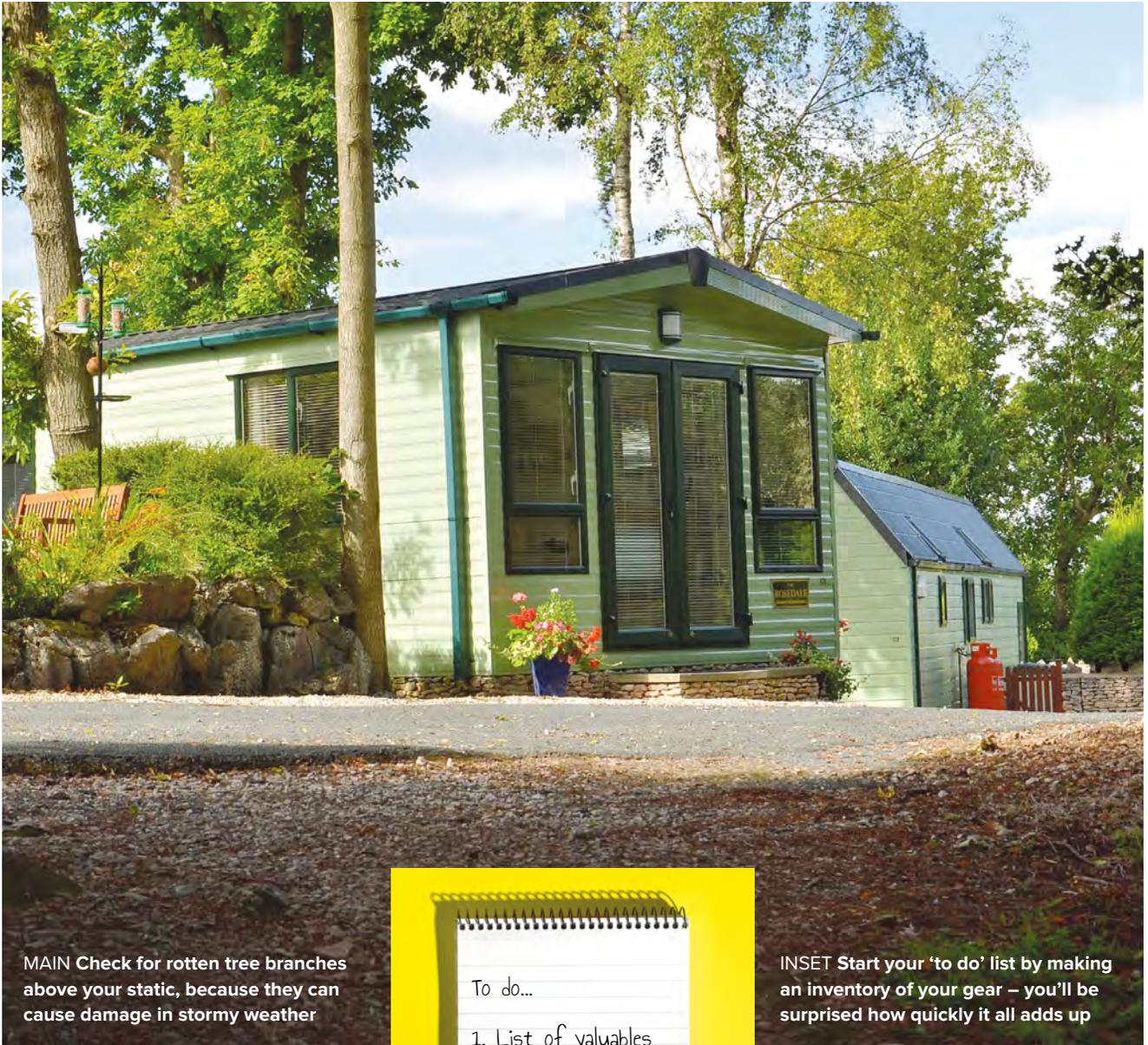
It's also sensible to security-mark your property, so it shows up when scanned if a thief is caught with your goods.

Take it home with you

If you are packing up because you won't be using your static for some months, and you have room to carry all that gear, you could take your valuables home.

Alternatively, hide things out of sight and open the curtains – some owners put a sign in the window stating 'All valuables have been removed'. Of course, whenever you're away, make sure that the windows, roof vents and doors are all secure.

Clear the area outside your static, too. Take the barbecue home if you can, but if you are storing such gear outdoors in a locker or shed, you should fit the best lock you can afford, which will also help to deter any passing would-be thieves.



MAIN Check for rotten tree branches above your static, because they can cause damage in stormy weather

INSET Start your 'to do' list by making an inventory of your gear – you'll be surprised how quickly it all adds up



An outdoor security light is a good idea, but check with the site owner (and your neighbours!) before adding one.

CCTV cameras add another level of security, but must be placed carefully, so as not to infringe on your neighbours' privacy. If the site has Wi-Fi, the cameras can be monitored via your phone.

You can also buy devices that detect movement and trigger a siren. Some owners fit domestic-type alarms, with the box in full view outside and a sign announcing the static is alarmed.

Bear in mind that most insurers will expect some form of security protection for your static, depending on where it is sited. Check the policy carefully so you don't miss any important requirements, such as fitting extra window locks.

Watch the weather

Security is important, but you should also think about keeping your static safe from the vagaries of the weather, and be aware of potential hazards in the natural surroundings, such as trees. Many sites

are based in beautiful woodland, and the site owners will be checking regularly for any branches that might cause damage in a storm. On exposed sites, for example on clifftops, anchor points will be fitted and inspected on a regular basis.

Site managers will keep an eye out for any weather damage and will report such problems to the static owner.

Prolonged life

After hard frosts, it's a sensible idea to visit your static as soon as possible, to check all is well. Of course, draining down the property before you pack up for winter helps prevent burst pipes.

Finally, watch for damp – over the years, weathering can take its toll on seals and guttering. With the passage of time, joints expand and contract, and gaps open up, allowing in water. On older statics, keep an eye out for tell-tale signs, so you can deal with them quickly.

Just like your home, if you look after your static, it will serve you well, giving you many years of brilliant holidays.

'Bear in mind that most insurers will expect some form of protection for your static, depending on where it is sited'



TOP SITES FOR STATICS

There are plenty of great parks for your static, and these are a few of our Top 100 favourites



Crows Nest Caravan Park

Located near Filey on the North Yorkshire coast, Crows Nest Caravan Park is ideal for static owners wanting a seaside plot.

There's plenty to do on the site, more than enough to keep adults and children entertained, and traditional coastal towns such as Scarborough and Robin Hood's Bay are nearby, as is the spectacular North York Moors National Park.

New and pre-owned static caravans are sold on the park, which also offers free site fees for your first year of ownership. *For full site details, see p29*



Meadow Springs

Meadow Springs Country & Leisure Park, in mid-Wales, has recently been extended with a new static caravan development.

Set in superb scenery, the site has its own springwater-fed lakes, while the bar/restaurant, serving home-cooked food, is open until late.

There are plenty of walks from the site, as well as cycle trails, and dogs are also welcome. The play area will help to keep the children entertained, and the park is open to static owners all year round. *For full site details, see p21*



Findhorn Bay Holiday Park

Scotland's Findhorn Bay Holiday Park lies near Inverness, just a short walk from the Moray Firth, a beautiful part of the coast boasting superb sandy beaches.

The pet-friendly park, which also offers static caravan hire, is next door to the Findhorn Foundation community, where you can find organic food, books and gifts.

Pine forests and coves make the spot ideal for walking and watersports. For a change of pace, try the live entertainment at the Universal Hall's 350-seat theatre. *For full site details, see p15*



Chestnutt Holiday Park

This coastal site in Co Down offers some of the most breathtaking scenery to be found in Northern Ireland.

The park provides all of the essentials, such as Wi-Fi, disabled facilities, laundry, playground – even a football pitch.

Static caravan plots are well spaced in beautifully manicured grounds, with all neatly kept to five-star standards.

Winner of many awards over the years, this superb site allows for static caravan occupancy from 31 March to 31 October. *For full site details, see p9*



Langstone Manor

Langstone Manor Holiday Park is located near Tavistock, in the spectacular setting of Dartmoor National Park.

This well-planned site offers static owners the perfect base for exploring Dartmoor's splendid views.

The site restaurant is open every day for quality food at reasonable prices.

Prospective owners can also hire a static caravan, to try before they buy.

Set in the heart of the countryside, this is a quiet, peaceful place for your static. *For full site details, see p80*



Woodclose Park

Woodclose Park, in Kirkby Lonsdale, Cumbria, lies in a scenic area well known for its ties with the writer John Ruskin. It's an ideal spot for enjoying the beautiful landscapes of the lakes and dales.

The site provides pleasant plots for statics, all well serviced and neatly laid out, offering relaxing holiday breaks.

There's a children's play area, as well as plenty of excellent walks, one taking you into town across the famous Devil's Bridge, dating back to medieval times. *For full site details, see p39*

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