

## Your Van Conversion Budget & Timeline Calculator

Fill in the blanks. Get a real number. Stop guessing how much van life will actually cost.

### Step 1 — Pick Your Base Vehicle

Vehicle	Used Avg.	Conv. Difficulty
Ford Transit 250 (high roof)	\$28,000	Easy
RAM ProMaster 2500	\$26,000	Easiest (square sides)
Mercedes Sprinter 144"	\$38,000	Hard (Mercedes parts)
Chevy Express Cargo	\$18,000	Medium (low roof)
Nissan NV2500 HD	\$22,000	Medium

Your pick: \_\_\_\_\_ Your purchase price: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Step 2 — Build Feature Cost Ranges (DIY)

Feature	Low	Mid	High	Your \$
Insulation + sound deadening	\$300	\$700	\$1,200	_____
Subfloor + flooring	\$200	\$500	\$1,000	_____
Bed platform + mattress	\$200	\$600	\$1,500	_____
Kitchen (sink, stove, fridge)	\$500	\$1,400	\$3,000	_____
Electrical (battery + solar 200W)	\$1,200	\$2,500	\$5,000	_____
Water (tank + plumbing)	\$200	\$500	\$1,200	_____
Walls + ceiling cladding	\$300	\$700	\$1,500	_____
Ventilation fan (Maxxair)	\$200	\$350	\$500	_____
Heat (Diesel/propane)	\$0	\$700	\$1,800	_____
Tools + consumables	\$300	\$600	\$1,200	_____

Build subtotal: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Step 3 — DIY vs. Pro Labor Multiplier

Skill self-rating	Multiply build subtotal by
I have NO tool experience	x 2.0 (most jobs to a pro)
I can fix things if I YouTube it	x 1.3 (electric to a pro)
I've done a kitchen remodel	x 1.0 (full DIY possible)

My realistic build cost: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ + Vehicle: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ = TOTAL: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Step 4 — Realistic Timeline

- Weeks 1–2: insulation + subfloor + walls
- Weeks 3–4: electrical rough-in + ventilation fan
- Weeks 5–6: bed platform + storage cabinets

# THE SKILL MILL

PRACTICAL GUIDES FOR REAL BEGINNERS

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- Weeks 7–8: kitchen + water plumbing
  - Weeks 9–10: finish work, trim, lighting
  - Week 11: shake-down trip (find what's broken)
  - Week 12: fix-it weekend, then HIT THE ROAD
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**Full conversion blueprints in “Van Life for Beginners” — [theskillmillbooks.com/van-life/](https://theskillmillbooks.com/van-life/)**