

RV Owner's HANDBOOK



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Quick Reference Guide

New RVs come with owner's manuals for the unit as well as individual manuals for appliances and other features. Please refer to these for detailed information and maintenance schedules. We have provided this reference manual as a general guide to help make your camping experience easier and more enjoyable, but always read your user manuals before operating any equipment.

FRAME & RELATED ITEMS

To help stop corrosion the frame point should be touched up as needed. The tongue jack, stabilizer jacks and coupler, and the steps should be lubricated periodically. NOTE: The rear bumper of a towable units not designed for towing. Do not fabricate a hitch that attaches to the rear bumper in any way. Ask your dealer about the pros and cons of triple towing.

TIRE, WHEELS AND AXLES

Wheel lug nuts should be checked for tightness initially, after 50 miles, again at 100 miles, then again at 200 miles and periodically after that. Tires should be inflated properly. Proper inflation pressures can only be determined by weighing properly and using a load inflation pressure chart. Also, you should have your brakes inspected and adjusted as well as having your springs and suspension inspected for wear. It is a generally accepted fact in the tire industry that when tires are 5-8 years old they must be replaced regardless of wear patterns. Load inflation information charts are available on the internet.

EMERGENCY BREAKAWAY SWITCH

This operation is designed to stop your trailer or load in the event it ever becomes separated from the tow vehicle. For this to work your trailer, fifth wheel or load must have an onboard battery. The breakaway switch cable must be fastened in the tow vehicle in such a way that if the hitch ever failed, the pin from the switch would be pulled from the switch activation your brakes. If accidentally pulled, your brakes will lock on. To reset, insert the pin firmly into the breakaway switch. It is necessary to adjust the length of the cable and hookup so that it will not be accidentally pulled while cornering. Do not use this as a parking brake as it will cause permanent damage to the switch and possibly the brake magnets themselves.

ANTI-SWAY CONTROLS

There are several types of sway controls, dual cam, friction, and 4 point (or 2 point) system which is built into the hitch. The dual cam works in conjunction with your equalizer. The friction sway control has 2 - 1" balls with a tension bar between them. The 4 point system incorporates 4 points of metal-to-metal friction built into the equalizer itself to prevent sway. It is also the user-friendliest to use.

MAIN TRAILER PLUG

This plug supplies power to signal lights, taillights, running lights, interior lights, battery charge line and electric brakes. Always check this before moving the RV onto the highway.

SLIDEOUT

Most of the time you can manually crank the slide room in the event you lose all power sources. If equipped, travel lock bars should be used whenever the room is in the closed position. Make sure that the slideout roofs are free of debris before running them in. Slide topper awnings are great for preventing debris from accumulating on top of the slide rooms. If parking your unit seasonally or for an extended stay, it is a good idea to operate your slide once a month. This will keep everything working freely.

TV ANTENNA & SATELLITE

The antenna or satellite must be in the down position prior to traveling or damage can occur. Always check this before moving your RV. On most RVs there is a signal booster for the antenna with a small LED, either green or red, to indicate it is on.



RVING 101

LOCKS, WINDOWS, DOORS, MOLDINGS & ROOF

Learn and know how to operate standard windows and escape windows. It is important to check caulking and seals on all windows, doors, moldings and the roof. These items are part of the regular maintenance to ensure that the caulking is in good shape and your unit is sealed tight. Fluctuations in temperature, as well as movement while traveling, can cause cracks to develop in sealant. It's also a good idea to lubricate all locks a few times each season.

AWNINGS

If you plan to carport (anchor) the arms, reverse the ratchet lever prior to moving the arms or you can damage the ratchet spring. This would be classed as misuse and would not be covered by your warranty. Prior to storing for any long periods of time the awning must be clean and dry. **NOTE: All awnings are meant to be used to provide shade only.** While use during light showers and drizzling is permissible, all awnings must be put away during moderate to heavy wind and rain storms. Also, during light rain always slope the awning to allow water runoff.

REFRIGERATOR

Refer to your owner's manual to understand operating an electric, propane and 12-volt. The absorption type cooling units found in RV refrigerators must be level to operate. Damage can be caused if not level when parked in a stationary position. You can operate your refrigerator while being transported with no harm. You should always turn off your refrigerator or any other appliance while refueling your vehicle. If you park for any extended periods, park level or shut off your refrigerator to prevent damage to the cooling unit. It takes approximately 12-24 hours to cool down initially. Turn on the refrigerator 24 hours before filling with food to insure proper temperature. Most refrigerators will maintain cool for 8 hours while traveling without being turned on.

FURNACE

Most RVs have a forced air type furnace. It requires both 12-volt power to run the blower motor and propane to fire the burner. At start up the furnace will run approximately 20 seconds before the burner comes on, and approximately 1½ minutes after you turn it off. **NOTE: If using a battery as your source of 12-volt power, you may find that as the battery gets low it will not run the blower fast enough to allow the main burner to fire.** If this happens charge the battery and restart the furnace.

WATER HEATER

Some are propane/electric and some are propane only. Always have a good flow of water at the hot side of taps before starting the water heater. Check the position of the bypass valves for desired operation. The best way to ensure if water is in the heater is to crack the TOP valve on the exterior. The following sentence should read exterior not interior. **NOTE: If you have electric on your water heater the on/off storage switch at the rear of the water heater in the interior must be on.** This switch is easy to accidentally shut off when packing. Some units have an additional switch elsewhere. **DO NOT** start your water heater with no water in the tank. **DO NOT** confuse the propane automatic start switch (DSI) with the 120VAC electric switch. The switch location vary dependent upon the water heater model and the RV manufacturer.

AIR CONDITIONER

Consult your owner's manual for operation of the controls and/or wall thermostat. If camping in very cold weather the air conditioner can be used as a dehumidifier. This will reduce the amount of condensation on your windows. Most air conditioners draw approximately 15-18 amps of 120VAC power. It may blow the circuit breaker in your house or at the park if you try to run it on less than a 30 amp circuit. Low voltage from the pole at your campground can also cause high amp draws. An acceptable range is 108VAC –132VAC for proper appliance operation.

STOVE / OVEN

The operation of the stove/oven and oven pilot is much like a standard range. Often the front burner will be a high output. It will be marked generally in red. If so, consult your owner's manual for special precautions when using this burner. It is recommended that you only light the pilot on the oven prior to using it.



MICROWAVE

Your microwave oven draws a large amount of 120VAC power. It is recommended that you plug in with a 30 amp power cord. You may blow the circuit breaker if using only a 15 amp cord. When using an inverter, your microwave will be less efficient.

BATTERY

Most units have an on-board battery. This should be a deep cycle battery. They are designed to be drained slowly then recharged many times. DO NOT use an automotive style starting battery. They are built differently and will not perform efficiently. The battery can be charged by plugging your RV into 120VAC power. Your battery fluid level should be checked and filled once a month while in use. The battery should be removed and stored in a heated area for the winter to prevent freezing. Solar charging systems are available that would allow you to stay longer periods of time in remote locations without worrying about running out of power. Note: While charging, batteries give off explosive, toxic gas. They must be located in an exterior vented box. NEVER hook up the battery in the interior living area.

ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS

RVs have both 12VDC and 120VAC wiring. 12VDC power is used for interior and exterior lighting, furnace fan, range hood fan, water pump and bathroom fans. This is supplied by either an onboard deep cycle battery or a power converter. 120VAC power is for the air conditioner, microwave oven, refrigerator on electric, wall outlets and power converter. With this type of system you are able to camp in remote areas without 120VAC electric and use all the systems on your RV except the air conditioner, microwave oven and 120VAC wall outlets. Your refrigerator, water heater and air conditioner may require 12VDC to operate. Both systems are overload protected by 12VDC fuses as well as reset breakers for the 120VAC system. If something isn't working always check the fuses or breakers first. It is a good idea to have spare 12VDC fuses handy in your RV. Most RVs come with a 30 or 50 amp power cord. If possible, plug in directly with this cord. DO NOT exceed an additional 25' of the same size as the original. While running the air conditioner or microwave oven you may find this will overload the circuit and blow the breaker at the park or your house.

POWER CONVERTER

The 12VDC fuse panel is generally at or near the converter. This is to convert 120VAC power to 12VDC power to run the 12VDC systems in your RV, as well as charge your battery. On most RVs it is an automatic converter. This means it will come on as soon as you plug into 120VAC power. Some fold down trailers and truck campers have manual converters. They require you to manually switch from battery to converter. Some converters have different charge rates. If using a higher charge rate, check the battery fluid levels more frequently.

MONITOR PANEL

The monitor panel will show the level in your fresh, black (toilet waste), and gray (soapy water) tanks, as well as battery condition. To get a true reading on the battery condition you must disconnect from 120VAC power then push the test button after a few hours. Many motorized units also have a propane level on the monitor panel. Consult your owner's manual for instructions on reading your monitor panel.

FRESH WATER SYSTEM

The fresh water tank is for use in remote locations. City water is used when a fresh water connection is available. Filling the fresh water tank is done with a fresh water fill on the side of the RV or many newer RVs have a series of valves. They must be turned correctly to let the city water hook-up fill the tank. The fresh water is pumped with a 12VDC pump. The pump can have up to four switches. Most RVs only have one. A/RWs have a drain for the fresh water tank and low point drains for the rest of the system. Always consult your owner's manual for specific winterizing and use instructions.



RVING 101

WASTE WATER SYSTEM

Always use the proper toilet chemical. When camping at a site with sewer hook-ups on site **never leave the black water valve open**. This needs to be closed with the toilet chemical in the system to liquefy waste. Failure to do this will result in a clogged system. You can never use too much water in the waste tank. Too little water can cause a clog or build up in the tank. Several types of rinsing devices are available to aid in rinsing the waste tank. There are two or three waste dump valves. Dump the black tank first and then the other one or two. **ALWAYS** use gloves when dumping.

PROPANE CONTAINERS

Cylinders should be checked to make sure they are secure prior to towing. When cylinders are removed for filling, the hose connection should be checked for leaks with a proper leak detector solution. **DO NOT** use soap with detergent. Annual propane checks are a must. These tests are **Operating**, **LOCK-up** and **Timed Drop Pressure**. Many states require no one to be in the motorhome when filling the propane tank. Propane cylinders require re-certification after twelve years and every five years thereafter. **LP cylinders MUST ALWAYS be transported UPRIGHT, SECURE and VENTILATED**. Motorhome propane tanks do not require re-certification or to be removed when filling.

AUTO PROPANE REGULATOR (TOWABLES)

This regulator allows you to open both cylinders at the same time. It will only draw from one cylinder until it's empty then automatically start to draw from the second cylinder. At this point an indicator will show you are drawing from the second cylinder. You can now switch the control on the regulator and remove the empty cylinder to take for refilling while the other cylinder continues to supply propane to your RV. Please note that although the automatic propane regulator should keep gas from leaking while only one tank is connected, you should always check to be sure there is no leak.

YOUR FIRST TRIP



Congratulations! You have just made a very significant purchase. We would like to offer some general advice that you may find helpful. Before you plan a long trip you may want to load your RV and go on a short trip close to home, maybe even “camp” in your driveway. If you found that you forgot to bring something, write it down so you’ll remember it next time. We have included a list of items that most RVers consider essential and nice to have available.

TOOLBOX

It is recommended that you take a small toolbox including, but not limited to, the following items:

- TIRE PRESSURE GAUGE
- PHILLIPS HEAD SCREWDRIVER
- PLIERS
- DUCT TAPE
- GLOVES
- BUNGEE CORDS/ROPE
- FLASHLIGHT
- ELECTRICAL MULTIMETER
- STRAIGHT HEAD SCREWDRIVER
- ASSORTED SCREWDRIVER TIPS (RV RELATED)
- HAMMER
- LEVEL
- SMALL STEP STOOL
- 12V DC TEST LIGHT
- ASSORTED 12VDC REPLACEMENT FUSES



RVING 101

WEIGHTS

Be sure you know your RV's weights. There are several different weights and weight ratings you need to know about. **Unloaded Vehicle Weight (UVW)** is the unloaded weight of your trailer or fifth wheel. It is also referred to as the **Dry Weight**. **Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR)** is the maximum amount of combined weight (trailer and cargo) that your trailer should never exceed. If you subtract your Unloaded Vehicle Weight (UVW) from your Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR) you will get your **Cargo Carrying Capacity (CCC)** or **Payload**. Be careful, though, some manufacturers have different ways of figuring your UVW (sometimes it includes common factory options, sometimes it includes your actual options) so your CCC may vary for this calculation. **Gross Combined Weight Rating (GCWR)** is the maximum loaded tow vehicle or motorhome weight plus any towed vehicle or trailer.

Being overweight can have disastrous results. ALWAYS know your vehicle's tow rating and your trailer's weight. Remember, the brakes and tires on your RV were only designed to work properly if you are within the weight specifications. A weight label can normally be found on the inside of the RV, and on some newer models, on the outside. Always check your tire pressure in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications prior to leaving on a trip.

GENERATORS

One of the most common problems with a motorhome is the generator, or more accurately, the failure to exercise the generator. When you don't use it for periods of time, the fuel sits in the carburetor and starts to gum up. To prevent this from happening you need to exercise it. Start the generator on a regular basis, put a load on it such as the roof air conditioner, and run it for 30–45 minutes. If the motorhome is in storage, add some fuel preservative to the gas tank and run the engine and the generator long enough for the preservative to get through the system. This should prevent any problems when it's time to use your motorhome again.

PROPER VOLTAGE

It's always a good idea to use a voltmeter that can be plugged into a wall outlet. When the campground is busy, monitor the voltage. If it drops below 110V stop using the major appliances until the proper voltage is restored. This will save expensive repair bills on components such as the roof air conditioner.

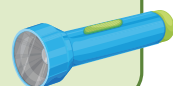
We have included a couple of lists below. One of essential items and the other of nice to have on hand items.

ESSENTIAL ITEMS TO BE WELL PREPARED FOR YOUR TRIP

- PORTABLE DRINKING WATER HOSE, 10' & 25"
- WATER PRESSURE REGULATOR
- ELBOW CONNECTOR (90 DEGREES)
- WATER FILTER
- SEWER HOSE, 10' & 25"
- SEWER HOSE ADAPTERS
- 30 AMP ELECTRICAL ADAPTER
- SPARE BLADE FUSES
(CHECK YOUR OWNER'S MANUAL FOR AMPS)
- SPARE BULBS
- RV/MARINE TOILET PAPER
- HOLDING TANK CHEMICALS
- LP GAS LEAK SOLUTION
- STRIKER/LONG STEM LIGHTER
- STACKABLE LEVELERS
- FLASHLIGHT
- FIRST AID KIT
- SURGE PROTECTOR
- PLUG IN VOLTMETER

ITEMS FOR A PLEASANT TRIP

- AWNING TIE DOWNS
- 30 AMP EXTENSION CORD
- WAND TO CLEAN HOLDING TANKS
- BUBBLE LEVELERS
(MOUNTED ON UNIT)
- NON-SLIP SHELF LINER
- ROOF VENT COVERS
- MUD DAUBER SCREENS
- OUTDOOR LIGHT SOURCE
(FLASHLIGHT, LANTERN)



USEFUL RV SUGGESTIONS

MAKE YOUR TRIP ENJOYABLE BY PLANNING AHEAD

Camping with Kids

RVing lets your family function as a family while providing individual renewal and relaxation. Everyone has a better time when parents are flexible about chores, schedules, recreation, hobbies and location. Escaping from the daily grind is a refreshing change and a chance to learn something new. Whether you're 5 or 95, everyone is delighted by a walking stick, a butterfly emerging from a cocoon or a magnificently starry sky. Your family can enjoy all these things – and much more – when you camp.

Get Their Input

The more input kids have, the better. Even little ones can research campgrounds on the Internet or in a Campground Directory. What do kids want to see and do? If they love water, go to a campground near a water park or lake; if they bike or roller blade, take along the necessary equipment. (Be sure the campground allows these activities, as some do not). Depending on your tastes, you can choose an RV that has a space for everything from golf clubs to a motorcycle or four-wheeler.

Planning Ahead is the Key

The RV lifestyle is popular and campgrounds are busy. This is especially true if you're traveling to major attractions such as Cedar Point, Disney parks, Sea World and historical sites. To get a campsite in these areas, as well as state and national parks, be sure to make a reservation. Otherwise, find a suitable local campground early in the afternoon and call it a day. Some parks do not take reservations for weekends. If possible, arrive on a weekday and stay through the weekend, especially if your final destination is a popular tourist attraction.

Seasonal Activities

If your family enjoys specific activities, like fishing or hiking, match your trip, location and season appropriately. Hike or bike to view spring flowers or colored leaves; fish when your favorite breed is running. The Internet, public library, chambers of commerce or tourism bureaus can provide this information.

An Adventure in Learning

Basic equipment can turn RVing into a learning experience. Take along binoculars, a magnifying glass (be sure kids know not to leave these in the sun), a butterfly net, and a bird book. Older kids often enjoy nature and landscape photography. A telephoto lens is particularly good for this. Challenge kids to take interesting animal, bird and family photos.

Personal Space

Depending on the size of the RV, it's not always easy to have your own space in a recreational vehicle; older children may prefer sleeping in a small tent next to you. This allows for privacy but lets them enjoy the conveniences of RVing, including a bathroom and protection from the weather. Each child should have his or her own duffle bag or backpack, be allowed to determine what they will take along, and pack their own gear. Be sure they take warm clothing, including gloves and hats, even in the summer.

Meeting Everyone's Needs

Be realistic. While RVing is a great way to travel, family problems don't disappear just because you're on vacation. Discuss expectations ahead of time concerning family time versus individual time, chores, keeping belongings in a designated place, and spending money. If you plan ahead and start out realistically, there will be less likelihood of disappointment on the road. Families who RV best together are those who adjust their trip to the needs of the youngest family members. Getting away as a family comes first. When you reach your destination, the ability to enjoy what is offered varies with age.



USEFUL RV SUGGESTIONS

MAKE YOUR TRIP ENJOYABLE BY PLANNING AHEAD

Traveling with Pets

In many cases, traveling with pets is not as difficult as traveling with children! All it takes is common sense and planning ahead. Before traveling with any pet, consider the animal's overall health and whether it is comfortable being confined in a vehicle or RV. Here are some general guidelines: Don't plan a three-week road trip with a pet that has never traveled! Start with short car trips and build up to overnight, weekend and so on. If car rides mean going to the vet, take your pet to the park or other fun places, so they become accustomed to the fact that getting in the car means pleasant experiences are coming. Consider leaving your pet at home if it is prone to carsickness or anxiety or has an illness that is not easily managed or might infect other animals. If it misbehaves or is destructive, or barks, howls or otherwise demands attention if left alone.

Always Carry a Rabies Certificate with You

Many campgrounds (virtually all national parks) and officials at the Canadian and Mexican borders won't admit pets without proof of vaccination against rabies. Provide a cozy crate. Dogs and cats naturally feel more secure when they have their own space. Loose pets are potentially dangerous; even unexpected braking can cause them to fall off seats or fly through the air. When you pack, leave ample space around the crate for air circulation.

Buckle up. Whether your pet is crated or not, buckle him up. Pet stores sell harnesses that work in conjunction with lap and shoulder belts. These are most effective with pets that weigh 25 pounds or more. Smaller pets do best in a crate buckled to the seat or firmly attached to the floor. Attach a leash or harness BEFORE you open the door. This applies to both cats and dogs. In the confusion and excitement of a strange place, pets often dart into traffic or run off.

Get temporary ID tags. If someone finds your pet, they can't reach you at home if you're on vacation. Temporary tags can provide the phone number of your campground, cellphone or a friend or relative who is usually at home. Take your pet's normal food. Changing diet on a trip can cause distress or illness. Animals generally eat less when it's hot or they're stressed from traveling.

Courtesy is Rule #1

Not everyone loves animals, even friendly ones. That's one reason your pet must be leashed in public places and campgrounds. ALWAYS clean up after your pet, even if it doesn't appear to be required, or other people don't.

Leaving Pets in Your RV

If you plan to leave a pet in your RV while you sightsee or shop, leave the air conditioning on, especially if your unit is parked in the sun. It is unwise to leave an unattended animal in an expandable trailer. They can cause very expensive damage to screens and can also escape.

Keep Your Pet Safe

NEVER leave your pet unattended in a hot car or RV. Dogs, in particular, have far less tolerance for heat than humans do. Because they only sweat between their toes and by panting, dogs and cats overheat quickly. Even on a comfortable day, the inside temperature of your car can break 100 degrees in just a few minutes, especially in the sun. If you must leave your pet alone, park in the shade, leave at least two windows open for air circulation (but not far enough to allow the animal to jump out). Provide a bowl of water and return within five minutes. When it's time to eat, use a drive-through or consider eating in shifts, with a family member staying behind with your pet, preferably outside the car. Your pet will welcome opportunities to explore with you, but use common sense and courtesy. Keep him or her leashed, and clean up after them. In tourist areas, well-behaved pets are welcome in many shops, but always ask first.

At Your Destination

When you travel with an animal, ALWAYS make reservations ahead of time so you can be sure the campground you choose allows pets. Campground policies vary. Some restrict the number or size of pets, and most have specific rules for the handling of animals. Check on these policies ahead of time to avoid surprises or disappointment.



USEFUL RV SUGGESTIONS

HELPFUL WEBSITES

These are some web links that may help you along the way. We are not affiliated with, nor do we endorse any of these sites, with the exception of our own.

RV Owner's Manuals

www.kz-rv.com/owners-manuals/
www.bellcampersales.com/rv-glossary_id132.php



KZ-RV
Owners Manuals



Bell Camper Sales
RV Glossary/Info

Campground Information

Facebook is a great resource for campers. There are many pages you can follow to find camping tips, ideas and destinations.

facebook.com/BellCamperSales
facebook.com/TravelOK
facebook.com/KOAKampgrounds
facebook.com/GoCampingAmericaFriends
facebook.com/KOAKampgrounds
facebook.com/CamcoRV

gocampingamerica.com
koa.com/find-a-koa

National and State Parks

nps.gov/index.htm
travelok.com/state_parks
mostateparks.com/
arkansasstateparks.com/
ksoutdoors.com/State-Parks/locations
tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/

Tourism Websites

Oklahoma: travelok.com
 Missouri: visitmo.com
 Kansas: travelks.com
 Arkansas: arkansas.com
 Texas: traveltexas.com
 New Mexico: newmexico.org
 Colorado: colorado.com

Finding a Dump Station

www.rvdumps.com
www.rvdumpsites.net



CAMPING IN YOUR RV

PREPARING YOUR RV AFTER STORAGE - RV CHECKLIST

INSIDE:

- ☐ Check for water stains on ceilings and around windows.
- ☐ Open the doors and windows. Air out the RV.
- ☐ Using city water connection, run water through entire hot and cold systems (don't forget toilet and outside shower) until no more antifreeze is present. Deactivate water heater bypass. Fill water heater and check when full with TOP valve.
- ☐ Turn pump on and check for leaks.
- ☐ Attach city water and check for leaks.
- ☐ Turn off all LP appliances.
- ☐ Turn LP on #1 bottle and check for leaks.
- ☐ Light LP appliances:
 - ☐ Refrigerator
 - ☐ Hot water tank
 - ☐ Range
 - ☐ Oven
 - ☐ Furnace
- ☐ Check for leaks around hot water tank now that it's hot.
- ☐ Plug in shore power and turn on electrical appliances:
 - ☐ Refrigerator
 - ☐ Microwave
 - ☐ TV
 - ☐ Overhead Air
 - ☐ Light / Receptacle
- ☐ Remove air conditioner filters, wash in soapy water. Reinstall when dry.
- ☐ Lubricate door latches.

OUTSIDE:

- ☐ Do a visual outside inspection and look for exterior damage, particularly if it's been in commercial storage.
- ☐ Check sealant around vents, running lights, outside receptacles and corner moldings.
- ☐ Check the date of the license tag.
- ☐ Check all the outside lights, including the brake lights.
- ☐ Check the tire pressure. (They tend to lose pressure in the winter).
- ☐ Have the wheel bearings inspected by a professional.
- ☐ Clean the battery, check the water and charge it.
- ☐ Make sure the TV antenna will raise easily and doesn't stick to the top of the coach.
- ☐ Unroll the awning. Clean and let dry.
- ☐ Examine the LP tanks for rust.
- ☐ Check vents: remove protective covers, i.e. tape, etc. If not covered, check for nests, i.e. mud daubers.

NOTES



CAMPING IN YOUR RV

RV CHECKLIST

CHASSIS SYSTEM:

- ☐ Check that the fluid levels are in operating range (oil, power steering, engine coolant, windshield washer, transmission, brake fluid, etc.).
- ☐ Check chassis engine starting battery for clean connections and proper state of charge.
- ☐ Check operation of all lights and flashers.
- ☐ Check horn operation.
- ☐ Check for proper operation of foot brake and parking brake.
- ☐ Check wheel lug torque and tire pressure according to the actual axle load and manufacturer's specifications.

GENERATOR:

- ☐ Check for cleanliness of the generating set, as it affects efficiency, keep governor and choke linkage clean.
- ☐ Service the air cleaner as required by the owner's manual.
- ☐ Check the oil level and change as required by the owner's manual.
- ☐ Check the generator starting battery for clean connections and proper state of charge.
- ☐ Check manufacturer's owner's manual to ensure proper maintenance has been performed.

REFRIGERATOR:

- ☐ Operate refrigerator on gas and look at burner to see if flame is blue. If not, have repairs performed.
- ☐ Check and ensure there are no obstructions in the ventilation system.
- ☐ Check to see that control knobs are not stripped causing a false thermostat reading.
- ☐ When packing the refrigerator, do not pack so tightly as to shut off the internal airflow.

AIR CONDITIONING:

- ☐ Check air filters and clean if necessary. Look to see if the cooling unit coils are clean and free of debris.
- ☐ Check to see that condensing unit is clean, free of obstructions, and there is nothing to block airflow.
- ☐ Check voltage at outside panel. Most air conditioner systems are designed to operate at 120 volts +/- 10% (108-132 volts).

INSIDE THE COACH:

- ☐ Turn off the water pump switch
- ☐ Close windows and vents.
- ☐ Check that cabinet doors and drawers are closed tightly.
- ☐ Check that the refrigerator doors are fastened.
- ☐ Check that no heavy items are stored in overhead cabinets.

Make Your Own Lists

As you prepare to set out upon your RV adventure, be sure to make your own lists of items that are specific to your family's and your pet's needs. If you are a hobbyist, be sure to include items you need to enjoy your time whenever the mood strikes. Rainy day items are especially important to keep children busy and assure they don't get bored. Don't forget to include chargers for electronic devices, a can opener to open canned foods that are perfect for quick meal preparation, and personal hygiene items. Keep a tablet and pen handy to make note of forgotten items, to assure you remember them on your next excursion. Many items that aren't affected by weather, like kitchen utensils, cookware, coloring books and crayons can be left in your RV during time at home between trips. You'll find yourself needing to pack less each time you leave home.



CAMPING IN YOUR RV

RV CHECKLIST

ITEMS YOU MAY WANT TO TAKE:

- ☐ Prescription medicines and copies of prescriptions, prescription sunglasses, contacts and solution.
- ☐ Camera and cell phone.
- ☐ Reading material.
- ☐ Highway emergency kit with flares and phone numbers to warranty and road side service providers.
- ☐ Accurate tire pressure gauge.
- ☐ Spare parts for generator (spark plugs, oil, air filters, etc.).
- ☐ Emergency items: first aid kit, heating pad, ice bag, etc.
- ☐ Special pet supplies.
- ☐ Extra toilet chemicals and toilet paper.
- ☐ Map or GPS.

THINGS TO CONSIDER IN PREPARATION FOR YOUR RV TRAVEL:

- ☐ Be sure your RV insurance is current and you have a current insurance card and vehicle registration with you.
- ☐ Avoid carrying a great deal of cash while traveling: use traveler's checks and credit cards.
- ☐ Confirm any reservations well in advance.
- ☐ Make a clothing / personal packing checklist.
- ☐ Secure your home and valuables before leaving.
- ☐ Discontinue appropriate home services: mail, newspapers, etc..
- ☐ Notify neighbors of departure and return dates.

UNIQUE COLD WEATHER OPERATION:

- ☐ LP gas appliances, furnace and gas operation of refrigerator are designed with sealed combustion areas. This is for safety to prevent danger from carbon monoxide or depletion of oxygen. If frost or condensation accumulates in closets or cabinets during long periods of cold weather operation, leave doors to these areas ajar to provide air circulation.
- ☐ Open kitchen and roof vents when using oven or burners.

IF TOWING A CAR WITH BAR:

- ☐ Is the tow bar hooked up and checked?
- ☐ Are the safety chains under the coupling and hooked?
- ☐ Are the towed vehicle lights working?
- ☐ Is the transmission in the proper gear?
- ☐ Is the drive shaft disengaged if need be?
- ☐ Is the towed vehicle's parking brake off?
- ☐ Is the ignition in the first "n" position? (If required by the manufacturer).

RVing with Pets

Traveling with pets requires a little more planning before you leave. You'll want to make sure your destination has a nice selection of pet friendly RV parks or campgrounds, restaurants, and things to do – because there's nothing worse than realizing that your pet friendly vacation spot isn't all that pet friendly! Calling ahead to confirm the pet policies will help you avoid any unpleasant surprises. For all travel with pets, make sure you have at least a couple jugs of water, three days' worth of both food and any medication your pet vitally needs, travel bowls, a warm blanket, treats, towels, extra collar and leash, a pet first-aid kit and toys in case you get stuck on the road due to weather, natural disasters, traffic incidents or if your vehicle breaks down. Be sure that you're a good representative of the RV pet travel community by keeping barking and noise to a minimum, obeying leash laws and pet guidelines, and always picking up after your pets.



CAMPING IN YOUR RV AT THE CAMPGROUND

CAMPING

RESTROOMS

BOAT LAUNCH

DUMP STATION

BARK PARK

THINGS TO CONSIDER WHEN SELECTING A CAMPSITE

- ✓ Avoid dumpsters unless you enjoy the smell of rotting trash.
- ✓ Avoid dump stations unless...well, just avoid them.
- ✓ Pay attention to traffic flow. Do you want a quiet corner without a lot of people walking by, or do you want to sit out, and visit with everyone who passes?
- ✓ What kind of neighbors are there? Are there strollers, bicycles and kids toys? Are there lots of lights, or an outdoor entertainment center?
- ✓ Is there a shared hookup?
- ✓ Is there plenty of room for your slideouts and awnings?
- ✓ Choose shade in summer but be careful of overhanging tree limbs.
- ✓ Choose open area in winter for sunshine, unless avoiding wind is more important.
- ✓ If you have kids, you may want to be near the playground.
- ✓ Choose as level a sight as possible.
- ✓ Do you want to be near the restrooms and bathhouse? If you use them instead of one in your RV, the convenience may be worth putting up with the extra foot traffic.
- ✓ Is there a highway nearby that will cause bothersome traffic noise? Sometimes lake views come with noisy boat traffic particularly on busy weekends.



Bell RV Village



It is easy to be intimidated when considering an RV purchase. You might catch yourself thinking, "There are so many new features. They all look and sound great, but will I remember how to actually use them?" If you have had these thoughts, rest easy knowing that when you purchase an RV from Bell Camper Sales, we encourage you to stay at our campground. We want to ensure that you are comfortable with your new RV.

LEARN THE ROPES ON-SITE!

When you purchase an RV of any type from Bell Camper Sales, we demonstrate to you all of the working systems on your RV. More importantly, we give you a one night free stay in our campground. This gives you the opportunity to use all of the systems yourself, while you are still right next to us. If you have questions or see a potential problem, we are right here to assist you before you pull your RV all the way home.

LIVE HOURS AWAY FROM BELL CAMPER SALES? NO PROBLEM!

Not only will you be next door to our service department, but you can spend one or 2 nights at our campground with your trade-in parked adjacent to your new RV. This makes it easy for you to take your own time transferring your gear from your old RV to your new one.

RECEIVE A FREE NIGHT STAY AT BELL RV VILLAGE WITH ANY PURCHASE OF A NEW OR USED RV FROM BELL CAMPER SALES



Bell RV Village



PlayGround

30 and 50 amp Hook-ups
Water and Sewer Hook-ups
Free Cable TV
Free High-Speed Wifi

Bark Park (Pet Friendly)
On-site Laundry
2 Sewer Outlets at Each Site
8'x 20' Concrete Patio w/ Picnic Table

39' Extra Wide Sites
Modern, Convenient Hookups
Gazebo
Clubhouse with Kitchenette

Playground
Horseshoes

1001 NE Washington Blvd, Bartlesville, OK • 918-214-8773 • BellRVVillage.com



BELL CAMPER SALES



CAMPING IN YOUR RV

SETTING UP AT THE CAMPSITE

- Step 1** Survey the campsite for utilities (water, electricity, sewer connections, etc.), any hazards or landscapes that may prevent operation of awnings or slideout rooms. Try to park in a level area.
- Step 2 (TT)** Unhook a travel trailer sway control to prevent damage from backing the unit. (Hard turns of the vehicle will bend the sway control). Prepare the fifth wheel hitch (slide, if equipped) as needed for backing.
- Step 2 (MH)** Set the emergency brake on the motorhome and towed vehicle. Disconnect the motorized towed vehicle from the motorhome. NEVER back a towed vehicle.
- Step 3** Position the RV on the campsite. Make sure someone is in your sight for a guide. (The use of walkie-talkies is recommended).
- Step 4 (TT)** Level the RV side-to-side before unhooking from the tow vehicle. To level the RV, place levelers under the tires by backing the vehicle up on the levelers. After leveling the RV, secure the vehicle in place before unhooking from the tow vehicle. The use of wheel chocks to secure the vehicle in place is a safety measure. Level the RV front-to-back. Using the tongue jack or landing gears located on the front of the vehicle may do this. Electric or hydraulic jacks make this easier. Stabilize the RV by either running down the jacks or by placing jacks under the frame.
- Step 4 (MH)** Level the motorhome by using the jacks or levelers. If the motorhome is equipped with hydraulic leveling jacks, set the emergency brake. If the motorhome is equipped with an air suspension system, dump the air before extending the leveling jacks.
- Step 5** Connect the vehicle's electrical cord to the campsite electrical outlet. DO NOT use smaller than 10 gauge outdoor extension cords. Also, switch your RV to the appropriate power if the RV is equipped with a 30-50 amp power line system. If the RV has a 60 amp shore cord, turn the power off, plug in and then turn the power back on. A proper extension cord is helpful here.
- Step 6** Connect the city water fill with the potable water at the site spigot. For best results use a 6/8"25' safe for drinking water hose, and a water pressure regulator at the spigot. This reduces the pressure in the water hose. An in-line water filter may also be used.
- Step 7** Connect the cable TV hook-up and telephone jack to the vehicle as needed. Extension cables and telephone extension cords may be helpful.
- Step 8** While keeping the dump valves shut hook up the sewer connections to the vehicle. Use rubber gloves for this task. Use a sewer dump adapter where the sewer hose connects into the dump station to prevent spills. A 20' sewer hose or an extra 10' hose with a coupler and clamps may be helpful. Consider the use of a sewer hose cradle.
- Step 9** Turn on the propane tank(s). Be sure the LP regulator is not making a humming noise. This humming noise would indicate there is an LP gas leak.
- Step 10** If equipped, pull out the vehicle awnings. DO NOT operate the awnings in high winds or rainstorms. Awning tie downs and a screen room may be nice here. Several awning accessories are available in Bell's Camper Sales parts department.
- Step 11** If equipped, open the rock guard over the front window.
- Step 12** If the vehicle has a slide room(s), remove all travel locks and extend them.
- Step 13** Ignite the stovetop burners. Lighting the stovetop filters out any air that may be in the propane system. Allow the system to run 3-5 minutes. The use of a flint lighter or long stem lighter is a safer way to light the burner.
- Step 14** Turn on the refrigerator. Propane or electric –most will default if electric.
- Step 15** Turn on all water spigots. This will filter out any air that may be in the water lines.
- Step 16** Turn on appliances as needed: water heater, air conditioner, furnace, etc.
- Step 17** If necessary, charge the sewer system by putting chemical and water in the black water holding tank. Some of the customer friendly things to consider for best results in your waste system are: chemical with cleaner, deodorant, gray water chemical, monitor probe cleaner, biodegradable toilet paper, and slide valve lubricant.



CAMPING IN YOUR RV

SETTING UP AT THE CAMPSITE

DISCONNECTING A FIFTH WHEEL

- ✓ Chock trailer wheels
- ✓ Disconnect light cord.
- ✓ Lower truck tailgate.
- ✓ Disconnect breakaway wire.
- ✓ Lower landing legs.
- ✓ Disconnect hitch locking mechanism.

DISCONNECTING A TRAVEL TRAILER WITH A STANDARD HITCH

- ✓ Chock trailer wheels.
- ✓ Disconnect the electrical cord.
- ✓ Disconnect the safety chains and break-away cable.
- ✓ Unlock and release the coupler latch mechanism.
- ✓ Raise the tongue until the coupler is clear of the hitch ball.
- ✓ Move the tow vehicle forward clear of the trailer.

DISCONNECTING A TRAVEL TRAILER WITH A WEIGHT DISTRIBUTION HITCH

- ✓ Chock the trailer wheels.
- ✓ Disconnect the electrical cord.
- ✓ Disconnect the safety chains and break-away cable (if equipped).
- ✓ Raise the tongue of the camper with the jack high enough to take most of the weight off of the spring bars.
- ✓ Remove any safety clips if your weight distribution has snap-up brackets.
- ✓ Lower the bracket and release the chain.

NOTE: Make sure that most of the tension is off of the spring bars when lowering the bracket. If there is still tension on the spring bars when lowering the bracket it can cause the handle to be jerked from your hands. To get more of the tension off of the spring bars you will need to raise the tongue of the trailer even more.

- ✓ After the spring bars are unhooked, lower the tongue of the trailer.
- ✓ Unlock the latch of the coupler and raise the tongue again until the couple is clear of the trailer.
- ✓ Move the tow vehicle away from the trailer tongue.

CONNECTING ELECTRIC

- ✓ Open breaker box on post.
- ✓ Turn off breaker at post.
- ✓ Insert polarity tester.
- ✓ Turn on breaker at post.
- ✓ Verify good power.
- ✓ Turn off breaker at post.
- ✓ Remove tester.
- ✓ Verify that all electrical appliances are off.
- ✓ Extend RV power cord to post.
- ✓ Plug in RV power cord to post.
- ✓ Turn on breaker at post.
- ✓ Close electrical box.
- ✓ Verify power source inside RV.

NOTES



CAMPING IN YOUR RV

PREPARING TO TRAVEL

OUTSIDE

- ☐ Antenna down, TV/satellite cable
- ☐ Awnings secured/locked, wand stowed
- ☐ Breakaway connection connected
- ☐ Compartment doors locked
- ☐ Doormat stowed
- ☐ Dump valves/cap in place
- ☐ Electric cable/accessories stowed
- ☐ Hitch pin lock secure
- ☐ Hoses stowed
- ☐ Jacks retracted/blocks stowed
- ☐ Landing legs up and pins in
- ☐ Light connection tight, lights tested
- ☐ Propane turned off and supply checked (unless refrigerator is running on LP gas)
- ☐ Roof clear
- ☐ Roof vents closed
- ☐ Safety chains attached
- ☐ Sewer hose/accessories stowed
- ☐ Shore power disconnected, cords stowed
- ☐ Slideouts retracted and locked
- ☐ Slide valves closed
- ☐ Spare checked
- ☐ Sway control pins inserted and tightened
- ☐ Tires inspected, tire pressure checked
- ☐ Torsion bar clips
- ☐ Trailer brakes tested and adjusted
- ☐ Truck mirrors adjusted
- ☐ Water heater off (outside switch)
- ☐ Water hose/pressure regulator stowed
- ☐ Wheel chocks stowed
- ☐ Door locked
- ☐ Steps raised

INSIDE

- ☐ Appliances off (except refrigerator)
- ☐ Switch refrigerator to LP or inverter power (if equipped)
- ☐ Antenna/satellite dish down
- ☐ Antenna booster switch off
- ☐ Bathroom vent closed
- ☐ Cabinets and drawers securely closed
- ☐ Ceiling vents down
- ☐ Closet doors securely closed
- ☐ Countertops bare
- ☐ Dining table secure
- ☐ Fresh water filled (if desired)
- ☐ Furnace/air conditioner off
- ☐ Lights off
- ☐ Microwave off, door latched
- ☐ Nightstands bare
- ☐ Refrigerator contents secured
- ☐ Shelves secured
- ☐ Shower curtain closed
- ☐ Shower items put away
- ☐ Sink covers in place
- ☐ Slideouts retracted and locked
- ☐ Stove burners/oven off
- ☐ Toilet seat down
- ☐ TV secured
- ☐ Wall hangings secured
- ☐ Water heater off
- ☐ Water pump off (best check for leaks)
- ☐ Windows closed
- ☐ Window blinds up/down
- ☐ Entry door locked

Crafty Camping Tips

There are many ideas for camping on Pinterest and Facebook. You can find ways to be more comfortable, light up your site, make your own fire starters or jazz up your camper. Crafts and do-it-yourself projects that repurpose items can be a fun way to make life more convenient on the road. You can also find great ideas in many magazines you'll find near the checkout in grocery and drug stores that are targeting the home, but can be applied to your tiny space. If you can't find the solution for a storage problem, you can always use your browser to search for ideas. Remember to be courteous to other campers with lighting solutions. Camping is supposed to be fun for everyone, so don't take the fun out of someone else's evening by lighting your campsite in a way that disturbs others. Enjoying the challenge of creating convenient solutions, is all a part of Happy Camping!



ELECTRICAL SYSTEM

CAMPSITE POWER PROBLEMS

OVERLOADS

- I. Be aware of the current rating of your RV. Do you have a 30 or 50 amp service RV?
- II. Be aware of the amount of power each of your appliances are rated to use.
 - a. Most appliances list the number of watts they consume.
 - b. Take the wattage and divide it by 120 volts to get the amp draw of the appliance.
- III. Avoid running multiple high amp drawing appliances at once.
 - a. Tripping breakers multiple times will weaken them.
 - b. When resetting breakers turn them completely off and then back on for proper operation.

UNDER / OVER VOLTAGE

- I. What is the voltage?
 - a. Always carry a voltmeter of some kind with you.
 - b. Incoming voltage should be between 110-125VAC. If the voltage is too high or too low, contact the campsite management for a resolution.
- II. Extension cords.
 - a. Extension cords are common sources of voltage drop. Adding length to your existing cord increases resistance which can cause voltage drop.
 - b. If an extension cord is necessary, make sure it is the minimum length you require and properly rated for the maximum current your RV requires.
- III. Maintain your power cord.
 - a. Keeping the prongs cleaned will cut down on resistance at the connection.
 - b. Repair any cuts or kinks in your power cord before connecting to a 120VAC source.

SURGES / SPIKES

- I. Lightning or electric company problems.
 - a. One of the most common causes of surges is lightning.
 - b. Surges can also occur from problems within the utility company's power grid.
- II. Use a surge protector.
 - a. Power surges are not covered under any warranty.
 - b. Surge protectors are available in permanent mount styles or simple plug-in styles at Bell Camper Sales' parts store.

POLARITY PROBLEMS

- I. A proper 120VAC outlet should have a Line (black conductor), Neutral (white conductor), and a Ground (green conductor). **NOTE: A 50 amp service Rv cord will have an extra Line (usually a red conductor).**
- II. Plug-in polarity testers are most convenient for checking polarity, but electrical multimeters can also be used to determine proper polarity.
- III. In a proper/safe circuit, the Line (black) should be positive voltage, also known as the "hot" wire. By placing the leads of an electrical multimeter on the Line and the Neutral or the Line and the Ground proper voltage should be observed. Or once again, polarity testers are available. **NOTE: Most surge protectors have a built-in polarity tester.**



ELECTRICAL SYSTEM

CAMPSITE POWER PROBLEMS

MAINTAINING YOUR ON-BOARD 12VDC BATTERY

I. Charging

- a. Most RVs are equipped with a converter or inverter / charger to charge the house battery.
 - Converters transform 120VAC (shore power) to 12VDC (battery power). Converters are an integral part of the RV's electrical system. Maintaining a good battery is essential to a proper working RV.
 - Inverter / chargers transform not only DC voltage to AC voltage, but AC voltage to DC voltage as well.
- NOTE: Inverter/chargers are usually found in larger motorhomes and fifth wheels.
- b. A standard battery charger may be used when battery is not connected to the RV. Follow directions with charger on what charge setting to use.

II. Maintenance

- a. Use a battery cleaner on connections and top of the battery to clean off any battery acid or corrosion and a wire brush to clean connections.
- b. Check fluid levels in all of the cells (flooded cells only)
- c. Using a funnel, fill cells with distilled water only (if needed)
- d. Make sure all connections are tight to battery.
 - Tight connections at the battery will help you ensure proper operation of all 12VDC electrical devices in the RV.
 - Loose connections can cause numerous problems and increase diagnosis times of known problems with your 12V DC devices.



Capture the Camping Moment

Remember to Pack Your Camera and Charger



How to Capture Camping Memories

You never want to forget great camping experiences like s'more-covered kids or the fish that didn't get away. Make the most of your memories by preserving them with good quality photographs. Hint: Carry your camera with you, even when you don't expect to use it.

The Camera is the Foundation

Most of today's cameras have fully-automatic features. Zoom models are especially popular; they allow good candid images taken from further away. With a zoom, you can focus on one smiling face or the whole gang. Hint: Be sure to include an extra memory card. You can always edit the images you don't care to save when you get home.

When to Zoom

Non-zoom cameras are better in low-light situations, such as around the campfire. Why? Extra glass used in the zoom extension of the lens decreases the camera's sensitivity to light, which lowers your effective flash range. If using a zoom camera in low light, don't stand back and fill the frame by zooming. Get as close to the subject as possible so you're less likely to exceed the flash range.

Using the Camera's Flash Feature

When taking flash pictures, get close to your subjects – within 6 to 8 feet if possible. Note: the background may be dark, but the subject will be nicely lit with the flash. To light the background, (your RV, for example) move the subject (you) closer to your camper. Also, don't be afraid to use your flash in the daylight. When there are heavy shadows on your subjects, the flash may improve that issue.



WATER/PLUMBING SYSTEM

USING THE FRESH WATER SYSTEM

USING THE FRESH WATER SYSTEM ON YOUR RV

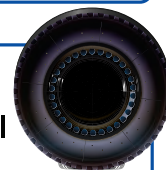
- I. City water operation.
 - a. Connect to city water.
 - Always use a drinking water hose. NOTE: Drinking water hoses or 'tasteless' hoses are used to alleviate the nasty taste of a garden hose.
 - Use a water pressure regulator. Water pressure should be regulated to under 60psi or leaks can happen in the fresh water system. Installing the regulator in between the spigot and the hose will not only protect your RV, but also your drinking water hose.
 - b. Pressurize and purge your fresh water system.
 - Turn water on at spigot.
 - Make sure the water heater is not by-passed for winterization. **NOTE: See winterization instructions for how to bypass the water heater.**
 - Open the hot side of any faucet in the RV to allow the water heater to fill. There will be air in the water heater tank that will purge out of the faucet until the tank is full. At this time you will have a steady stream of water flowing out of the hot side of your faucet.
 - c. Turn the water heater on and enjoy camping!
- II. Pump operation or 'dry camping'
 - a. Locate the inlet to fill the fresh tank (potable water) and fill the tank.
 - Most RVs have a gravity fill, but some use a series of valves to allow filling through the city inlet.
 - Most RVs have a monitor panel to monitor the tank levels as you are filling. Fresh tanks are also equipped with overflow hoses as to prevent overfilling. Therefore, when the tank is full the water will run out of the overflow on the ground under the RV.
 - b. Locate the water pump power switch and turn it on.
 - Filling and purging procedures are the same as with city water.
 - The pump is an on demand pump. Therefore, the pump should only cycle on when a demand is put on the system i.e. a faucet is opened. If the pump should cycle without a demand a leak could be present in the system. In the instance of a leak the pump should be turned off and a consultation with a qualified service technician should be made.
 - c. Turn the water heater on and enjoy camping!

You And Your RV Are Unique!

There are a lot of things you are going to learn while setting up your RV. Things like: what should be done first; what is the easiest way to do this or that; what items should be unpacked first; or, what is different about your RV that you haven't seen in any guides? Sadly, you ARE going to forget these things in the weeks or months between camping trips, so write them down! It makes RV life easier.

Trailer Tires – Don't Mix and Match

All your trailer tires should be the same type, size, and construction. Do not mix bias-belted and radial tires. In selecting tires for your trailer, buy the size, type, and load range found on your travel trailer's certification label or in the owner's manual. Keep in mind that tires have a load rating that indicates the amount of weight they can carry safely. As with your tow vehicle, always maintain proper tire pressure and replace worn tires. Remember your tow vehicle tires may require a higher tire pressure for towing, especially heavy loads.



WATER/PLUMBING SYSTEM

HOLDING TANK CARE

ODOR CONTROL – BLACK (SOLID WASTE) TANK

- ★ Use an approved chemical in the tank. Chemicals containing formaldehyde have been banned in some states. Respect local laws and dump station and campground restrictions.
- ★ Follow the package directions when adding chemical to the tank. Use plenty of water, not only when adding chemical but also when flushing the toilet. A ten to fifteen second flush of the toilet after every use will help cut down on odor and keep blockages from forming inside the tank.
- ★ Maintain the toilet bowl seal. Always keep four to six inches of water in the toilet bowl. This water provides a barrier against vapors in the tank. Without this small amount of water, odors will be able to escape into the RV.

ODOR CONTROL – GRAY (WASTE WATER) TANK

- ★ Always use an approved chemical in the tank and follow usage instructions on the bottle.
- ★ Maintain all p-traps (located directly after drain on sinks and tubs). The p-trap is the vapor barrier between the tank and the interior of the RV. Leaking and clogged traps should be repaired promptly.

ODOR CONTROL – FRESH WATER TANK

- ★ Sanitize the tank before use. There are several products available for purchase to sanitize the tank and the water lines. If these products aren't available to you, a bleach and water solution will be effective as well.
- ★ Use ¼ cup of bleach for every 15 gallons of water your fresh water tank holds.
- ★ To sanitize the lines as well, turn the water pump on and run the bleach solution through the cold and hot side of faucets until the distinct odor of chlorine is detected.
- ★ Close all faucets and allow 4 hours for disinfecting the system. **NOTE: You can reduce disinfecting time by doubling the bleach concentration in the system.**
- ★ When disinfecting period is over, drain the tank, and refill with potable water. Turn the water pump back on and run the water until the smell of chlorine has disappeared.
- ★ Never leave the water in the fresh tank for extended periods of time. It will sour and produce an unpleasant odor.
- ★ Draining all tanks and lines is suggested before storing your RV for any amount of time.

DUMP YOUR TANKS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

DUMPING – BLACK (SOLID WASTE) TANK

- ★ The black (solid waste) tank should be dumped first as to allow the gray water to help flush out your sewer hose.
- ★ If your RV isn't equipped with a sewer flush feature there are a couple of options to help you properly flush the tank.
- ★ Flushing wands are available in the Bell Camper Sales parts store. This device is placed in front of your exiting sewer hose. A water hose is connected to the inlet on the flusher to back flush the tank.
- ★ If you have neither of these devices a water hose can be inserted into the toilet to fill up the tank and flush it out as well. **NOTE: The black tank should be flushed after every use and before storage in order to maintain a proper tank level reading at the monitor panel.**

DUMPING – GRAY (WASTE WATER) TANK

- ★ The gray (waste water) tank should be drained after the black tank to help flush any residue from the black tank out of your sewer hose.
- ★ Flushing the gray tank is optional but can be very beneficial to help control odors and maintain a proper reading on the monitor panel.
- ★ Flush the tank by inserting a water hose in an interior sink or shower/tub basin.
- ★ Fill and dump the tank as needed to flush thoroughly. **NOTE: Never dump food waste or cooking oils down the drains as it may cause deposits in the tank, inaccurate monitor panel readings, and dump valve leaks.**

DUMPING – FRESH WATER TANK

- ★ Drain fresh (potable water) tank after every use and before storing your RV. Water left in tank will stagnate and sour.
- ★ See odor control section for proper maintenance of tank.



WATER/PLUMBING SYSTEM

DUMP VALVES - TOILET & TANK SYSTEM

DUMP VALVES

Dump valves tend to be a trouble spot in many RVs. Often, they become sticky and harder to operate as they age, a tendency that is aggravated by accumulation of waste solids and hard-water deposits. Thorough flushing and the use of a drain valve lubricant can help in this regard. Spray on silicone oils are also effective; petroleum based products should be avoided due to their tendency to swell and deform some rubber seals. Replacement seals are commonly available for most valves.

For the ultimate in hand-off operation, remote-controlled valves are available. Being able to control your dump valves remotely can also be beneficial in preventing solids buildup in the tank by making it more convenient to leave the valves closed until the tanks are full.

When camped with sewer hook-ups, tank solids build up and odors from standing black water can be reduced by placing the drain hose so that both the tank and hose drain completely. Several companies offer supports for this purpose, usually making it possible to position the hose so it slopes toward the sewer receptacle.

Hose storage plays an important part in sanitation. The freshwater and sewage hoses should never be kept where they might come in contact with each other. If storage in the same compartment is unavoidable, they should be kept in separate, watertight containers.

USING THE TOILET AND TANK SYSTEM

TOILET OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

Increase water levels prior to using your toilet by depressing the smaller pedal (if equipped with two pedals) until the water reaches the desired level; then release slowly. To flush after usage, step on the large pedal until the rinsing action cleans the bowl. Slowly release the pedal. Toilets differ on how they flush, please refer to the owner's manual for instructions. **NOTE: The water fill pedal can be operated independent of the black flush pedal, allowing users to increase the bowl water level above the normal 2" level of the automatic refill.** For better drainage, and to prevent solid waste buildup, be sure to use an adequate amount of water. To flush solid waste, it's advisable to set the water levels at 4-6".

TOILET CLEANING

Even though you may have a ceramic toilet, it's best to use a nonabrasive RV toilet bowl cleaner. Never use concentrated household cleaners, those with high acid content or scouring powder or products containing chlorine bleach. These products can damage seals and finish.

AVOIDING PROBLEMS

Before the sanitation system is used flush the toilet several times to release sufficient water into the black water holding tank. Without a sufficient amount of water used during flushing the waste materials may not evacuate properly from the drain line in the tank. Clogged tanks and pipes may eventually result. When camping you should always keep 4-6" of water in the bowl. The toilet system will perform better when the water is run for 10-15 seconds after flushing. This ensures that waste will flow to the bottom of the tank. The average RV toilet uses just 1-3 quarts of water for flushing.

If your campsite has a sewage hookup, connect your RV's sewage outlet to the hookup using the sewer hose. Keep the termination valve on the waste tank CLOSED until the holding tank is at least $\frac{3}{4}$ full. This will provide enough water to assist in the complete draining of the tank. When your tank reaches $\frac{3}{4}$ full, open the termination valve to empty the tank. When it's empty, close the valve. Repeat this process every time the tank reaches $\frac{3}{4}$ full. **NOTE: NEVER leave the termination valve open while hooked up to a park's sewer system.**



WATER/PLUMBING SYSTEM

VENTING – EMPTY TANKS TO REDUCE WEIGHT

UNDERSTANDING VENTING

Proper venting of DWV (drainage, waste, vent) plumbing is critical for the safe operation of any plumbing system. Waste tanks are vented above the roof, according to code. These lines are hidden behind the walls. The roof vent cap must be clear of obstructions at all times. On some models the vent pipe, called a wet vent, may be part of the drainage system. Water flows downward, as air flows upward in the same pipe. Sinks and shower drains have P-traps, which hold water as a means of blocking odors from escaping back into the RV.

DON'T 'WEIGHT' – EMPTY YOUR TANKS

OVERWEIGHT PROBLEMS

To eliminate dangerous conditions caused by towing excess weight, it's recommended that holding tanks be emptied prior to road travel. **NOTE: The extra weight carried in holding tanks is not calculated into the unit's cargo carrying capacity. As a result, the cargo weight available to you has been diminished by the added weight in the tanks.** In these cases, be aware that the trailer may exceed the gross weight rating or create hitch weight issues, and thus be in violation of the law. Excess weight can also damage the RV's suspension (tires, springs, axles), as well as put strain on the tow vehicle.

HITCH WEIGHT PROBLEMS

If your model has the holding tanks located behind the axles, the weight of a full tank will reduce the hitch weight. This can cause sway and other handling difficulties, and may cause the hitch weight to be too light. If you are dry camping and cannot immediately empty the tanks, use caution when towing. Always maintain lower speeds to better control the RV until you reach a dumping station.

TOWING YOUR RV

Most SUVs, pickup trucks, vans, minivans, and passenger cars can be equipped to tow a trailer. However, the selection of an appropriate tow vehicle and the proper equipment to tow a trailer depends on the type of trailer, its size and weight, and the amount of weight being towed. There are numerous types of trailers, but, in general, they fall into four categories: flat bed or open trailers, boat trailers, enclosed trailers, and recreational vehicle trailers (including travel trailers, fifth-wheel trailers, and folding camping trailers).

Check the owner's manual and review the manufacturer's guide to see if the vehicle you plan to buy can tow a trailer. After you have reviewed the vehicle capabilities, you also must investigate the capabilities of compatible hitch systems for the vehicle. This is especially important if you plan to purchase a hitch from a source other than the vehicle manufacturer. You may find that vehicle manufacturers offer specially designed towing packages that define the equipment necessary to tow different types of trailers depending on their fully loaded weight and size. A towing package may include a heavy duty radiator, battery, flasher system, alternator, suspension, and brakes, as well as an engine-oil cooler, transmission-oil cooler, wiring harness, specific axle ratio, and special wheels and tires. If you already have a tow vehicle, look up its tow rating, size, maximum loaded weight, and maximum tongue weight of a trailer that the tow vehicle is capable of towing. The vehicle owner's manual contains these specifications.

Towing packages also may include the trailer hitch receiver, which is mounted to the tow vehicle, but towing packages rarely include the draw bar, or ball mount, and hitch ball. The draw bar is a separate assembly on which the hitch ball is mounted. The draw bar then slides into the hitch receiver on the tow vehicle and is secured with a locking pin. The front part of the trailer that hitches to the tow vehicle is referred to as the tongue. At the end of the tongue is a coupler into which the hitch ball is inserted and secured.

A manufacturer may offer different towing packages to safely tow various sizes and types of trailers. Towing packages indicate both equipment that must be installed on your tow vehicle and equipment that is optional or recommended. For example, not all trailers require the tow vehicle to be equipped with extended side-view mirrors. But if you are towing a trailer that is wider than your tow vehicle, you will need extended side-view mirrors to see rear- and side-approaching traffic.



WATER/PLUMBING SYSTEM

SETTING UP YOUR WATER AND SEWAGE HOOKUPS

SETTING UP

Although we'd like to think the best of everyone, it's probably unwise to assume that the last guy to use the sewer inlet left it in sanitary condition. For this reason, disposable gloves should always be worn to prevent leftover bacteria from being transferred to your bare hands.

When hooking up at a campsite, always attach the electric and freshwater connection before touching any part of the dump system. Plug in the electric cord, making sure your hands and the ground are dry. Turn off the electric outlet's breaker switch before inserting or removing the RV's electric plug. This will prevent shocks and keep the plug's prongs from being damaged.

Keep a bottle of household disinfectant on hand for spraying off the water spigot before attaching your freshwater hose. A solution of one part bleach to 10 parts water is often recommended as an alternative sanitizer. Letting either work for several minutes before wiping with a clean cloth should kill a high percentage of any lingering bacteria.

A water-pressure regulator, attached to the hydrant, is recommended to prevent surges in the campground water pressure from damaging the RV's plumbing. A water filter to remove sediment is next, followed by the drinking water hose. Run water through the hose to remove air, and then attach the hose to the RV.

Failure to keep gray or black water safely contained within the RV-to-sewer dump system isn't only embarrassing and messy, but also unsanitary. And even minor spills can create an unpleasant odor that will surely waft into nearby campers' spaces. Before dumping the black tank, always pull the gray water handle for a few seconds to test the system for leaks. Let enough water run into the sewer drain to confirm that your connections and hose are leak free and that the far end won't detach from the drain hole. Once you're certain that the system is leak free, it's safe to dump the black water tank.

Using the right equipment goes a long way toward preventing leaks and spills. Stretching a corrugated dump hose to its maximum length to reach the sewer drain could cause tears or stress holes. Use a hose that's long enough to reach without being completely stretched out. On the other hand, too long a hose may prevent adequate flow during dumping. Make sure the hose maintains a gradual downward angle from the RV to the sewer drain to help prevent backup.

Use the right type of hose fixture when connecting the sewer hose to the drain opening. Some locations require a fixture that screws into the dump opening; a 'doughnut' is often mandatory for non-threaded holes. If there's any doubt about the hose staying put in the hole, brace it with a weighted object or use one of the aftermarket accessories available at RV stores.

If you find a leak, fix it or better yet, replace the hose before letting any more waste water run out on the ground. You'd be surprised how much smelly liquid can be released through the tiniest of pinholes, and these openings have a disturbing tendency to grow larger when under pressure. For obvious reason, don't lay a leaky sewer hose on the campsite's picnic table while repairing it, or any other time! Again, wear gloves when handling any part of the sewer system and discard them after use. Always wash your

Why Do You RV? Top Reasons People Go Camping Reported by the National Park Service

- 1. Explore Nature** - More than any other reason, people camp to have an adventure in nature.
- 2. Improve Their Health** - Sleeping under the stars helps you get in touch with your natural circadian rhythms, a foundation for high quality sleep and health. Physical and mental health improvements can be seen.
- 3. Digital Detox** - Campgrounds are perfect locations to put down the digital devices in our lives and focus on the basics that we still have access to. Relax with a good book, draw in a sketchbook, or write in a journal.
- 4. Strengthen Relationships** - Face-to-face conversations replace personal technological devices for entertainment. And shared experiences shape the memories that make up life-long relationships.
- 5. Develop Life Skills** - More than just survival skills camping abilities give you confidence and self-worth that carries over into all other aspects of your life.



WATER/PLUMBING SYSTEM

EMPTYING YOUR BLACK & GRAY TANKS AT PUBLIC FACILITIES

BASICS OF DUMPING YOUR HOLDING TANK AT THE CAMPGROUND

Anyone who's gone RVing for more than a weekend knows the basics of dumping the holding tanks: black water first, then gray water. Make sure both ends of the dump hose are secure before pulling the handle, and rinse well. Of course, there's a lot more to dumping than that. You need to make sure your equipment is in good condition and dump your tanks as sanitary as possible to avoid spreading harmful bacteria.

No single technique is right for every camper. The scenario varies by type of rig and individual preference. But no matter what your particular tank emptying routine, it's essential to be considerate of your campground neighbors as well as those who may use that RV site or dump station after you by leaving it clean and sanitary.

DUMPING DOS & DON'TS

DON'T use chemicals that are banned where you are camping. Some states do not allow formaldehyde and have other laws regarding holding tank chemicals. Some holding tank chemicals kill the bacteria in septic systems that break down waste, clogging the septic system (yuck!), so DO respect campground restrictions.

DO dump during less busy times of the day. Even though your RV-to-sewer link should be a completely closed system, some unpleasant odors may still escape. So for the sake of your campground neighbors, try to avoid dumping during the active parts of the day.

DO be a tattletale! When you're about to dump your waste tanks and notice the campground's dumpsite drain isn't functional or has a problem, notify a responsible person from the campground so that it may be repaired before the next RVer tries to use it.

DO rinse your sewer hose with the hose provided at the dump station or one you keep specifically for that purpose. **DON'T** use your fresh water hose to rinse your sewer hose.

DO clean up your mess. Rinse the ground around the drain with your dedicated rinse hose. Likewise, always rinse the concrete apron at a dump station after dumping. If a spill can't be totally cleaned up, notify the party responsible for the dumpsite. It's not only stinky, leaving a mess can spread dangerous bacteria like E-coli and salmonella.

DO close the lid or replace the cap on the sewer drain so no debris can enter the hold and clog the drain.

DO check that both your gray and black tank valves are completely closed.

DO keep a spray bottle with a solution of bleach water handy to disinfect the ends of your sewer hose before stowing. For good measure, apply the solution to the potable water spigot.

DON'T be the reason we lose another dump station! Public dump facilities are increasingly being closed because of the high cost of maintenance, and some of this expense is incurred from improper use by RVers. RVers can curb the loss of these convenient facilities by being good neighbors.

DO be better than you have to be...because you can (and your mama taught you to!). Whenever we pause as we travel, we must strive to leave it cleaner and more sanitary than it was when we arrived. Keep common sense and dumping etiquette in mind when emptying your RV holding tanks.

FINDING A DUMP STATION



rvdumps.com



rvdumpsites.net



BELL CAMPER
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RV MAINTENANCE

WINTERIZING INSTRUCTIONS

WINTERIZING YOUR RV

I. Drain Entire Water System

- Locate and open low point drains for hot and cold water lines. Open all faucets including exterior.
- Drain water heater by removing drain plug located on the front of the water heater.
- Drain all holding tanks (fresh, black and gray).

II. Prepare System For Antifreeze

- Close all faucets and low point drains.
- By-pass the water heater by one of the following methods:
 - If equipped with water heater by-pass valve(s), locate valve(s) inside RV and turn to divert water away from the water heater. **NOTE: You never want to put antifreeze into the water heater!**
 - If your RV doesn't have built in by-pass valves you must disconnect the cold and hot line from the back of the water heater and couple them together. Be careful you don't cross thread the fittings!
- Locate the on-board water pump.
 - Some RV manufacturer pre-plumb a siphon hose for winterization. If yours is pre-plumbed you must shut off the valve on the water line from the fresh tank and open the valve for the siphon hose.
 - If a siphon hose isn't pre-plumbed you must make your own, remove the line on the suction side of the pump and install your own siphon hose.
- Remove all water filters and install couplers where needed. If antifreeze is run through filters, they are ruined and must be replaced.

III. Pump Antifreeze Through System

- Place siphon hose into gallon jug of antifreeze and turn pump on.
- Move throughout the RV opening both the cold and hot sides of the faucets one at a time until nothing but antifreeze comes out of them. **NOTE: The interior and exterior shower hoses must have antifreeze ran through them as well.**
- Flush antifreeze through toilet and any other appliance that is connected to the water system (washer, dryer, ice maker).
- Winterize city water inlet.
 - Turn off water pump.
 - Open and close, very quickly, the cold side of any faucet to relieve some, but not all of the pressure on the cold lines. **NOTE: If you attempt step 3 below without letting some of the pressure off of the lines you could damage the city water check valve.**
 - Go out to the city water inlet and depress the check valve to allow antifreeze to force any residual water out of inlet. When antifreeze comes out of inlet the winterization process is complete.

Use the Right Antifreeze to Winterize Your RV

There are two types of antifreeze. The first is common automotive antifreeze, which is ethylene glycol. This type of antifreeze is highly toxic and should not be used for winterizing applications.

Use non-toxic propylene glycol and make sure it doesn't contain recycled materials. The possible presence of contaminants in the recycled propylene glycol can result in product that does not comply with FDA and USDA requirements. Check the brand. Just because it's pink doesn't mean it won't contain recycled chemicals that may taint your system. Walmart's Super Tech RV and Marine Antifreeze and Camco's Easy Going -50 are virgin brands.



Best Practice for Antifreeze Disposal

Best practice dictates that you not discharge it onto land, into storm drains or directly into the water. After use, dispose of used antifreeze in a manner consistent with federal, state and local regulations.



RV MAINTENANCE

DE-WINTERIZING INSTRUCTIONS & MAINTENANCE TIPS

DE-WINTERIZING YOUR RV

- I. Hook RV up to city water or fill fresh tank.
- II. Flush all lines and appliances with water.
- III. Re-install water filters.
- IV. Reset water heater back to normal mode and fill water heater by opening the hot side of any faucet until a steady flow of water comes through. NOTE: Do NOT reset water heater to normal mode until all antifreeze has been flushed out of system.
- V. Turn your water heater on and enjoy camping!

For motorized units please refer to your owner's manual for specific guidelines for routine engine maintenance.

RV MAINTENANCE TIPS

- ★ Check your tire pressure daily when traveling.
- ★ Have a 3-pt propane test professionally done annually for your safety.
- ★ Inspect all exterior seals at least annually, inspect the roof every 3-6 months for holes, leaks, or any other damage.
- ★ Change your smoke alarm batteries at least once a year.
- ★ A wheel bearing, brake and suspension safety check should be performed annually.
- ★ Check your water heater anode rod and change if needed.
- ★ Carry extra fuses.
- ★ Check your battery water (distilled water only) periodically.

RV MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE GUIDELINES

DATES

★ After first 100 miles, then every 1,000 miles – Check and tighten wheel lug nuts.	
★ Every 6 months / 6,000 miles or 12 months/12,000 miles – check wheel bearings and brakes. Repack if needed.	
★ As needed – Flush water and waste system.	
★ Annually – Inspect exterior light operation.	
★ Annually – Lubricate slide out, lifter systems, and roof.	
★ Annually – Check window, door, and compartment seals.	
★ Annually – Exterior coating renewal (if applicable).	
★ Annually – Service Air Conditioners.	
★ Monthly – Check battery levels. Run generator 1 hour under ½ load.	
★ Every 2 months / 2,000 miles – Check tire pressure and proper tire wear.	
★ Every 6,000 miles – Tire rotation on motorized vehicles.	
★ Every 50 (gas) or 150 (diesel) hours – Change the oil and filter on the generator.	



RV MAINTENANCE

STORAGE INSTRUCTIONS

STORING YOUR RV

Where you store your RV during times of non-use depends primarily on its size and your situation. Ideally, RVs should be protected from temperature extremes, salty air, blowing sand, pollution, and other damaging elements. Storing your RV inside is always preferable to outside. In cases of outdoor storage, some kind of covering is strongly recommended. You might even consider the purchase of a specialized cover to fit the contours of your RV. Most RV dealerships with service centers will do the necessary prep work to get it ready for storage, such as winterizing, for a fee.

WINTERIZING

After figuring out where your RV will be stored, the next step is winterizing the unit. At this point, industrious owners will roll up their sleeves and prepare the vehicle, both inside and out. It's an involved process so you may want to skip this part of the fun and have your dealership winterize it for you.

EVERYTHING OUT

Begin by removing ALL food, even non-perishables. For one thing, the RV will be closed up and can get very hot or cold, depending on the season, and items can spoil, become stale, attract bugs and rodents, and so on. As for cans and bottles, they can freeze and burst.

Remove all clothing, blankets and linens for laundering. If you're storing your RV at a storage facility you may wish to remove valuables and key items for security reasons. Because dirt and debris only gets more difficult to remove over time, a good cleaning, inside and out, is recommended before storing.

MAKE IT IMPENETRABLE

The biggest precaution concerning your LP gas system isn't the appliances, containers, or fuel lines, but rather the vents used for the appliances. Various insects and animals have been known to use such open avenues as intake and exhaust vents to set up a homestead. To ward off potential pests, cover any openings with the proper mesh screen, cardboard, aluminum foil, or whatever you can find. A little duct tape goes a long way, too. Mice are particularly partial to a dormant RV, making their home via unchecked openings and sometimes bringing along the whole family (handy note: mice hate the smell of mothballs). Meanwhile, birds favor exposed roof vents, ants and spiders are attracted to sweet smells onboard. Spray the perimeter with bug spray for an added layer of protection.

Check under the RV as well. Cover any possible entry point for pests. Get on the roof and cover the air conditioner (if not already covered by specialized covers). Repair any exposed seams with sealant readily available at Bell Camper Sales' parts store. If you have a motorhome go inside and turn off the dashboard temperature controls and close the vents. Keep all windows closed.

Note: While it is okay to cover vents during winter storage, any screens left in place need to be the proper mesh size so as to allow free airflow to the appliance –see parts department for proper screens. Proper sized mud dauber screens are always a good idea, year-round.

Games to Occupy Kids in Camp

A campground is the perfect place to play all types of games. In addition to the abundance of available outside games, parents can teach old favorites like marbles or jacks. Take board games and cards for rainy days and special family time. Young children enjoy crafts and simple games. Older kids appreciate Scrabble or more sophisticated card games like pinochle. Everyone can play Parcheesi, Uno and Skip-Bo.

Give Each Other Your Time

RVing is really about spending time together. Forget about video games, surfing the web and the persistence of the cellphone. Talk to each other for a change. Teach each other how to build a campfire and cook over the coals. Share your most valuable possession – your time.



RV MAINTENANCE

BATTERY

During storage, the 12 volt battery system is safe, a fully charged battery handles this storage time best, most easily accomplished by connecting in shore power prior to storage. Top off the battery' water levels, which dissipate over time. In colder climates it' best to remove the battery altogether and store it in a dry, warm location. Otherwise, disconnect the cables (negative cable first) to safeguard them electrically during storage. This may seem like a lot of work, but remember, these batteries are the heart of the 12 volt electrical system.

Flip off the switch on the RV's main breaker panel (see owner' manual for location) to safeguard the 120 volt system. All electrical appliances should be unplugged, and dry cell batteries, which can corrode over time, should be removed from alarms, detectors, etc. Follow the manufacturer's directions for the onboard or portable generator (if so equipped).

LP GAS

Propane container(s) should be topped off before storage; a fuller tank weathers dissipation better than a half-empty tank. Shut off the LP supply completely, and cover the tanks to eliminate dust, debris, and the elements. Removable tanks can be taken off, covered and stored but NEVER inside the RV, which is the very last place you want LP gas fumes. If you take off the fitting to remove a DOT LP cylinder, be sure to cover the open end with a baggy and a rubber band to keep spiders, etc. from intruding. Finally, all LP appliances (ranges, ovens, refrigerators, furnace, water heater, and so on) must be turned off during times of storage.

TIRES

Consider your poor RV's tires, enduring thousands of pounds of pressure all day, every day. Storage worsens the effects considerably, because the weight is stationary, resting squarely on one rubbery spot. After a few months of this, even the finest treads may begin to resemble a donut with a bite out of it.

Those fortunate RVers with leveling systems should consider using them to support the RV's weight on the jacks instead of the tires. Always consult the device manufacturer and review the owner's manual regarding long-term jack use. Otherwise, incorporate a set of outside jacks or blocks for each axle, money well spent considering the expense of replacing ruined tires. A cost-free but more laborious method is to periodically move the RV one-half revolution (once or twice over the winter should do it) to distribute the weight over other portions of the tire's surface.

ENGINE (IF MOTORIZED)

Inactivity is hard on any vehicle, but most taxing on the motor, particularly in harsh climates. Start by protecting the fuel source by topping off the gasoline or diesel tanks. A fuel stabilizer, found at most any automotive or RV parts store, is a must. Be sure to add the correct one for your engine type. Idle the engine to allow the additive to make its rounds throughout the system. As always, strive for full tanks and fluid compartments in the engine, to lessen the chances of them freezing or drying out. Top off the radiator with antifreeze matched for your climate. Inspect fluid levels throughout the engine (windshield wiper, brake fluid, oil, and so on), and refill as needed.

What a Crock!

Cooking outdoors is one of the great things about camping, but sometimes after a long day of adventuring, you just aren't up to the effort. Try crock-pot cooking. Put your meal on to cook before you leave to see the sights and it's ready when you get back to the camp. There are great recipes on line.

One of our favorites is cooking ribs in barbeque sauce on low. You can finish them off on a campfire grill or your outdoor grill to get that deep, dark barbequed texture, or serve them up falling off of the bone, when you let them cook a little longer in the crock. Crock pots are great for making tasty recipes like chicken and rice or pasta. Adding chicken breasts, rice or pasta, and a can of cream of chicken soup along with seasoning, and letting it simmer all day while out and about. When you return to camp you can feed your hungry crew.



RV MAINTENANCE

DETAILING YOUR RV

DETAILING YOUR RV

You have made a substantial investment in your RV and we're sure you want to keep it looking as shiny and new as possible. The fact of the matter is, just thinking about detailing it is enough to wear most of us out, let alone having to actually do the work. However, detailing doesn't have to be as overwhelming a task as you might think. The trick is knowing the products, tools, and methods to get the job done as quickly and easily as possible.

EXTERIOR

- I. Wash the wheels and tires first to prevent dirt from splashing on freshly washed walls.
 - a. Use a good household degreaser, available in Bell Camper Sales' parts and accessories store. Be aware that some harsh degreasers can remove paint!
 - b. Spray the degreaser directly onto the wheels and tires, scrub with a brush and rinse clean.
- II. Wash the roof. (Should be performed bi-annually).
 - a. For rubber roofs there are a variety of products you can use. Contact our parts associates for suggestions.
 - b. For all other roofs use a mild degreaser, a cleaning brush, and a bucket of water.
- III. Wash the slideouts, awnings, and undercarriage.
 - a. Use an automotive detergent on the sidewalls and undercarriage, available in Bell Camper Sales' parts store. (DO NOT use dishwashing detergent).
 - b. You can use automotive detergent on awnings, or for stains, use awning cleaner.
 - c. Black streaks are commonly caused by rubber roofs and can need special RV cleaner to remove.
- IV. Wax your RV.
 - a. Make sure all black streaks have been removed before waxing.
 - b. Apply the wax with the pad supplied by the manufacturer, or you can use a microfiber towel.
 - c. Remove the wax with an orbital buffer (not rotary style) or a clean dry microfiber towel.
- V. Clean the windows.
 - a. Simply use a glass cleaner and wipe them clean; squeegees are also very helpful with this task.

INTERIOR

- I. Clean carpet and upholstery.
 - a. You can use common household products to clean stains. Always test cleaners in an inconspicuous area first. Products are also available in Bell Camper Sales' parts and accessories store. **NOTE: An interior stain-resistant treatment is available.** Contact Bell Camper Sales' Business Manager for details.
 - b. Lay down area rugs in high traffic areas.
- II. Clean tub, sinks, refrigerators, and countertops.
 - a. Always use a non-abrasive cleanser as to not scratch surfaces.
 - b. Always leave refrigerator doors cracked open when storing your RV to prevent mold and odors.
- III. Clean windows.
 - a. Simply use a household glass cleaner.

Pardon Me While I Freshen Up!

Everyone knows that baking soda in the refrigerator and freezer helps get rid of odors, but a simple way to help keep the rest of your RV smelling fresh is to put dryer sheets on and around upholstered or carpeted surfaces before storing. If using a bleach solution (1 part bleach to 10 parts water) to remove mold, neutralize the bleach when finished, with hydrogen peroxide in a spray bottle.

Air freshener: Add a 1/2-teaspoon vinegar to a 4-ounce spray bottle, then fill with distilled water, plus a few drops of your favorite essential oil, if desired. Window cleaner: Mix 1/4-cup rubbing alcohol and 1/3-cup vinegar in a 32-oz spray bottle, then fill with water. To make your own textile refresher, place 4 tsp. of fabric softener in a 12oz. spray bottle and fill with water. Use on sofas, curtains and carpet to freshen up your space.



IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT MY RV

Important Information:

Emergency Contacts/Important Numbers:



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