

Key Chapter Takeaways



- ❑ After purchasing a new RV, you must decide where you will store it when not in use.
- ❑ There are two main storage options: your permanent residence or a storage facility.
- ❑ Storing your RV at home is budget friendly and convenient. However, you need to make sure you have the appropriate space and that local ordinances allow for RV parking.
- ❑ Your house most likely does not have the appropriate electrical hookup for an RV, but a licensed electrician may be able to add one.
- ❑ Storing your RV at a storage facility will cost more money, but may offer extra protection and amenities.



Storing Your RV at Home



The Big Idea

You have two main options for RV storage when you are not using your rig: storing at home or at a storage facility.

This lesson will focus on what you need to know when storing an RV at your permanent residence.

| What Are the Benefits of Storing Your RV at Home?

- Easier to pack and unpack from trips
- You can keep an eye on maintenance issues
- Security
- Lower cost
- Available for additional uses: office space, movie night, guest quarters, and more

| What to Consider Before Deciding to Store Your RV at Home?

- Homeowner's Association (HOA) restrictions
- Local ordinances
- Size and layout of your property
- Accessibility
- Additional amenities (electric, water, sewer hookups)

Let's talk more about each of these considerations...

Storing Your RV at Home



| Local Ordinances and HOA Restrictions

- Some townships and neighborhoods have strict guidelines about the types of vehicles that can be stored on your property.
- Research these in advance to avoid a citation or fine.

Restrictions vary widely and may include a limit on the number of hours an RV may remain in the driveway or where the RV can be placed on the property.

| Do You Have the Space to Store Your RV at Home?

Measure, measure, measure!

- Remember to include the length of the RV tongue and the height of the air conditioning unit on top of the RV.
- Take into account obstacles such as telephone poles and trees, which can restrict your turning radius when backing into the driveway.
- Note any low wires or branches.
- Note the amount of space your slides need to fully extend.

| Additional Considerations for Storing Your RV at Home

- Think about the pitch or grade of your storage area. This will affect leveling, hitching, and unhitching.
- Check to ensure you will be able to open slides, storage compartments, and doors.

Tip

Did you know that most RV refrigerators need to be level to operate properly? Level your RV even while stored if you want to load your perishables in advance of a trip.

Storing Your RV at Home



| Do You Want Power When Storing Your RV at Home?

Having shore power while storing your RV is convenient for the following reasons:

1. You can cool the RV refrigerator in advance of a trip.
 2. You can use the appliances in your RV for other purposes while at home.
- You can test everything before heading out on a trip.

| Plugging Into Shore Power at Home

Most RVs have 30 or 50 amp electrical systems. Your regular home outlets are likely 15 or 20 amp. So what are your options for plugging in?

1. Use an adapter that “steps down” your 30 or 50 amp plug to your 15 or 20 amp home outlet. These can be purchased for less than \$20. Be aware that you will need to limit your power usage so you don’t trip your circuit breaker.
2. Hire a licensed electrician to install a 30 or 50 amp outlet at your home. The price for this upgrade will vary greatly depending on whether you have room on your existing panel or not.

Storing Your RV at Home



| What if You Do Not Have Shore Power Available for Your RV at Home?

- Be sure to disconnect the RV batteries, as even small draws like a microwave clock can drain them while in storage.
- If your battery does not have a disconnect switch, you can install one yourself, or have a licensed technician do it.

| Water and Sewer Hookups at Home

- Most homeowners will have an outdoor hose spigot to connect to when in need of water for dewinterizing, winterizing, or filling the fresh water tank.
- Having an RV sewer hookup is less common, although not unheard of. Some homeowners tap into their septic system so that they can empty the holding tanks. Others have access to a city sewer drain on their property. It is important that you never empty your tanks onto the ground or into a storm drain.

