

Chapter 4:

Boondocking Best Practices



Now that you've picked out a destination and prepared for your trip, let's talk about best practices and managing your resources while you're out in the wilderness.

Cooking Outside

Cook outside on a grill or griddle to reduce heat inside your RV. Cooking outside usually makes for easier cleanup, and you can use paper plates, cups, and towels to reduce water consumption. Wipe down cooktops and utensils with paper towels to make rinsing easier.

Managing Your Gray and Black Tanks

Be mindful of how much water you're using and how much your tanks can hold.

For example, my fresh water tank can hold 46 gallons and my gray water tank can hold 66 gallons. Some of the fresh water will end up in the black tank, which holds 33 gallons. This means that I'm not in danger of filling up my gray and black tanks unless I add more water to my fresh water tank. Make sure to do this math based on your own tank sizes so you don't run out of room in your tanks.

Try to be conservative with flushing the toilet. Use bathhouses or vaulted toilets whenever these are available.

Be conservative with water consumption while showering. Get a showerhead with an on/off switch to control water flow.

Other options for extending your water usage during a boondocking trip:

- Use a blue boy, or portable waste tank, to empty your gray tank and take it to the dump station.
- Consider getting a composting toilet. If you plan on boondocking a lot, this could be a great option.
- It's also possible to turn your black tank into a second gray tank if that fits your camping style better.

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Managing Your Power

Consider using your battery disconnect during the day to conserve power. Your RV is always slowly draining the battery, even if you're not using anything. The only way to stop it is to disconnect the battery. You could always turn it back on in the evening when you need lights or the water heater, etc.

Note: If you disconnect the battery, nothing will work, including the refrigerator

If you have a solar power generator with a solar panel, set that out during the day to recharge your battery.

If allowed, you can use a generator to recharge your battery or run your air conditioner for a while, but be considerate of other campers who are trying to enjoy the peace and quiet.

Managing Your Garbage

- Animal proof your garbage in a safe spot.
- Pack in and pack out.
- Always practice Leave No Trace principles.

Respecting Other Campers

- Try not to park too close to other campers if possible.
- Keep noise to a minimum, especially generators and loud music.
- Turn off your outside lights at night.

In the next chapter, we'll talk about boondocking with pets.