

Chapter 3 Power Usage Answers



Understanding your RV power usage is one of the biggest hurdles for most people.

| Appliances

Air Conditioner

A small 13,500 BTU air conditioner unit uses **1,500** watts when running. That's about **150** amps inverted from your batteries. Or **15** amps when plugged into shore power.

Furnace

Because of propane, these only use about **5** amps on **12** volt plugged in.

Hot Water Heater

Tank water heaters are constantly firing up in the background to hold temperature. If you're connected to shore power, it can use **15** amps. On battery power, they only use **2** amps.

Tankless on-demand water heaters are more efficient and only use **1.3** amps.

Water Pump

RV water pumps are pretty efficient, only using **5** amps when running on batteries. They automatically shut off when water isn't running anymore.

Microwave or Convection Oven

These units can use up to **15** amps on shore power which means closer to **130** amps and **1,500** watts if running off your batteries.

Stove and Oven

A propane based stove and oven should use **zero or no** power.

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| Lights

A single LED bulb can use **1.5** amps or less, which is good because you probably have upwards of 30 bulbs in your rig.

Halogen or incandescent bulbs can use up to **3** amps each.

| Fans

Standard fans run at **1.5** amps or less.

Larger Fan-Tastic or Maxxair fans can use up to **3** amps on 12-volt power.

| Plugs

USB plugs run at **1.5** amps on 12 volt.

Household style outlets are limited by **30** or **50** amp service and your **inverter** size.

| Jacks

A single tongue jack can easily use up to **30** amps, and a self-leveling system can use the same, but for **each leg**.