

Tip for Organizing Your Small RV

What spaces do you have?

- List every space where something might be stowed:
 - Kitchen cabinets, drawers, shelves, pantry, under dinette or bed, clothes closet, bathroom closets, shower (*yes, really*), overhead cubbies, door and seat back pockets, outside storage bays
 - Measure each of these spaces. This helps with awkward items or if you want to purchase drawer inserts, etc.
 - The shower is a good temporary travel spot for large items like camp chairs or even sports equipment
- Make a detailed list of the basic items that will travel with you on every trip. (i.e., clothing, dishes, flatware, bedding, bath items, etc.)
 - Assign a "space" for each of these non-negotiable items

Clothing and Bedding:

- If clothing storage is scarce, consider a "capsule concept" wardrobe. You don't need as much as you might think, and laundry facilities are available in many campgrounds
 - Bring along detergent "pods" they are easy to store and use
 - Take along a few hangars and a set of clothespins: if you do hand laundry use the hangars and clothespins to hand wet laundry in the shower
 - Take along a travel steamer. Hang the item on a cabinet door edge and steam away the wrinkles!
- Mount hooks inside clothing closets to hold belts, scarves, and handbag or jewelry bag
- For longer trips, consider adding a shelf to your clothes closet to hold more items (the hang bar can stay, but it won't be too helpful!)
- Use shallow storage bins on the shelves to hold folded clothing and keep it organized
- Try vacuum space-bags for pillows, bedding and bulky sweaters. Squeeze out the air and everything lays flat for better use of the storage space
- If you need to take extra sheets or towels and don't have space, lay them flat under the bed mattress

Kitchen:

- Food storage will be limited so stock a few basics and plan on shopping along the way. Local farmer's markets and grocery stores are almost everywhere
- Prepare some items and freeze them flat in zip-lock bags. It is easier to stack them in a small RV freezer without plastic containers.
- Consider using a cooler for drinks. It will free up space in the fridge for food and it can double as an end table or ottoman
- Use washable dishes, flatware, and glasses to minimize trash
- Hang a paper towel holder under the overhead cabinet to conserve counter space



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- Use a wall mounted utensil rod to reduce counter clutter
- Consider a french press coffee maker and a tea kettle instead of an automatic coffee maker to save space
- Keep your pots and pans to a minimum. An iron skillet, a saute pan, and a couple of pots should do for most trips
- If you like to cook, replace the in-counter trash can with a knife block
- Spice jars take up a lot of closet space so consider a wall-mounted rack or a magnetic strip with metal tins
- Line the cabinet drawers and shelves with rubberized shelf liner, and use a few strips to weave around glasses and mugs to minimize rattle in transit.

Bathroom:

- Make the most of the bathroom space with an over-the-door organizer and/or a hanging dopp kit to stow bath items
- Hang towels on hooks or towel bars
- Store additional toilet paper stacked up on a floor mounted holder next to the toilet
- For a bathroom trash can try a tall, thin plastic cereal container

For office supplies or crafting items:

- A hanging jewelry/cosmetic organizer works perfectly and can be rolled up and stored or hung in the clothes closet
- Put pads and paper files in a plastic envelope and store in seat back pocket
- Divide craft items into multiple small containers to stash in the corners of a closet or cupboard

With the remaining space, consider what might fit in each depending on the type of trip you are planning. i.e.:

- *Hiking poles and a broom might fit in a nook by the door*
- *Backpacks on the floor of the closet*
- *Ukulele and guitar in back of the driver's seat held in place with a bungee cord, etc.*

The goal is to have a space for everything, secured for travel, and a clear floor to make it easy to move around in transit.

- Resist the temptation to over-stuff a cabinet. Your RV is a "rolling earthquake" and you don't want anything to jump out in transit or fall on you when you open a cabinet!
- If you can't fit items like kayaks, bikes, or camping gear, consider renting it at your destination. We have found this works very well, especially in popular destinations.