



beach nana travels

Small RV Travel, Tips, and Lifestyle

We have provided two sets of camp checklists: one for camping with electricity and water hook-ups and the other set for boondocking without any electricity or water hook-ups.

Setting Up Camp Checklist (standard hook-ups)

- Check-in to campground and find campsite. Put up the “reserved” card on the site post if required.
- Inspect the site for the most level spot
- Level the RV with either the automatic levelers or with the manual blocks or bricks
- Make sure inverter, generator, water heater, and water pump are in the “off” position when hooking up to campground supply.
- Test the campground electricity before hooking up; if ok, hook up surge protector and electrical cord
- Test the campground water pressure with a water pressure regulator before hooking it up to the RV
- Hook up the TV Cable (if any)
- Once the unit is level, and the electricity is hooked up, extend the slide room (if you have one)
- Put out the awning
- Set up camp chairs
- Observe Camp Etiquette: keep music and noise to reasonable levels during the day, and adhere to quiet hours in the evening. If your fire is producing too much heavy smoke, put it out. Don’t run your generator continuously, especially if you are camping with a lot of tent campers (they can’t get away from the noise and fumes)
- Report any safety issues to the park ranger or campground management if you find faulty electrical or water connections, or broken campground equipment.

Breaking Down Camp Checklist (standard hook-ups)

- Make sure the campfire is completely cold with no steam or smoke. Stir the ashes to be sure.
- Remove all trash from the site and dispose of it in the appropriate campground trash dumpsters.
- Clean your camp site, returning table to original place if you have moved it. Remove any trash, leftover food or your own broken equipment.
- Fill fresh water tank if depleted.
- Retract the awning and slide room.
- Turn off air conditioner or furnace
- Turn off any extra appliances (i.e., coffee maker, crockpot, etc.)
- Turn off and close ventilator fans
- Un-hook electrical cord and surge protector, put away in storage compartment.
- Un-hook water, pressure regulator and filter, put away in storage compartment.
- Bring RV down from levelers or roll off the leveling blocks.
- Take a quick inventory to make sure everything is where it should be in your rig.
- Make sure you re-pack all of your belongings. Check the electrical cord, water hose, surge protector, water pressure regulator, water filter, leveling blocks, camp chairs and tables, wheel chocks, and leveling blocks, etc.
- Secure all drawers and cabinets, sliding doors.
- Close windows and secure shades
- Make sure inverter, generator, water pump are all in the “off” position
- Secure service bay
- Conduct a “360” tour around your RV to make sure all storage compartment doors are closed and secured, camping gear is put away, awning and slide are pulled in (if you have them), wheel chocks and levelers put away, water hose and electrical cord put away. Then check the tires, and just give a good look all over the RV to make sure there are no stray branches on the roof, etc.
- Take RV to dump station (put on latex gloves)

Standard Dump Hose

- If using a 3” dump hose, feed it into the dump station port, secure.
- Pull black tank valve empty black tank. Close black tank valve.
- Pull the gray tank valve and empty the gray tank. Close the gray tank valve.
- Rinse 3” dump hose with water into dump station port and return the hose to its storage compartment.

Macerator Dump Hose

- If using a macerator hose, uncap and feed into the dump station port, secure.
- Pull the black tank valve, and then turn on the macerator.
- Monitor the tank level until empty. Turn off the macerator and close the black valve.
- Pull the gray tank valve and then turn on the macerator.

- Monitor the tank level until empty. Turn off the macerator and close the gray tank valve.
- Lift and empty macerator hose into the dump station port and then replace macerator hose cap and return to its storage compartment.
- Check to make sure valves to gray and black tank are in the closed position
- Turn on the water pump and fill a couple of gallon jugs with fresh water from the RV fresh water holding tank:
- Pour the fresh water into the gray tank through the kitchen sink drain, with a teaspoon of dish washing liquid.
- Then repeat, pouring a couple of gallons of fresh water into the black tank through the toilet. Toss in a deodorizer packet to black tank through the toilet.
- Toss latex gloves and wash hands.
- Take any trash to the campground dumpster.

Setting Up Camp Checklist (boondocking)

- Check-in to campground and find campsite. Put up the “reserved” card on the site post (if applicable)
- Try different areas of the site for the most level spot
- Level the RV with either the automatic levelers or with the manual blocks or bricks (*see above*)
- Once the unit is level, start the generator and extend the slide room (if you have one)
- Check the battery charge level and run generator until charged.
- Turn off generator unless cooling down unit with air conditioner. Turn off as soon as practical.
- Turn on inverter and water pump
- Put out the awning
- Set up camp chairs
- Observe Camp Etiquette: keep music and noise to reasonable levels during the day, and adhere to quiet hours in the evening. If your fire is producing too much heavy smoke, put it out. Don't run your generator continuously, especially if you are camping with a lot of tent campers (they can't get away from the noise and fumes)

Breaking Down Camp Checklist (boondocking)

- Make sure the campfire is completely cold with no steam or smoke. Stir the ashes to be sure.
- Remove all trash from the site and dispose of in the appropriate campground trash dumpsters.
- Clean your camp site, returning table to original place if you have moved it. Remove any trash, leftover food or your own broken equipment.
- Make sure you re-pack all of your belongings. Check leveling blocks, camp chairs and tables, etc. Take a quick inventory to make sure everything is where it should be in your rig.
- Retract the awning and slide room.
- Turn off all appliances (i.e., coffee maker, crockpot, etc.)
- Secure all drawers and cabinets, sliding doors.
- Close windows and secure shades
- Turn off and close ventilator fans
- Make sure inverter, generator, water pump are all in the “off” position
- Secure service bay
- Conduct a “360” tour around your RV to make sure all storage compartment doors are closed and secured, camping gear is put away, awning and slide are pulled in (if you have them), wheel chocks and levelers put away, water hose and electrical cord put away. Then check the tires, and just give a good look all over the RV to make sure there are no stray branches on the roof, etc.
- Take RV to dump station, put on latex gloves
- If using a 3” dump hose, feed it into the dump station port, secure.
 - Pull black tank valve empty black tank. Close black tank valve.
 - Pull the gray tank valve and empty the gray tank. Close the gray tank valve.
 - Rinse 3” dump hose with water into dump station port and return the hose to its storage compartment.
- If using a macerator hose, uncap and feed into the dump station port, secure.
 - Pull the black tank valve, and then turn on the macerator.
 - Monitor the tank level until empty. Turn off the macerator and close the black valve.
 - Pull the gray tank valve and then turn on the macerator.
 - Monitor the tank level until empty. Turn off the macerator and close the gray tank valve.
 - Lift and empty macerator hose into the dump station port and then replace macerator hose cap and return to its storage compartment.
- Check to make sure valves to gray and black tank are in the closed position
- Turn on the water pump and fill a couple of gallon jugs with fresh water from the RV fresh water holding tank:
 - Pour the fresh water into the gray tank through the kitchen sink drain, with a teaspoon of dish washing liquid.
 - Then repeat, pouring a couple of gallons of fresh water into the black tank through the toilet. Toss in a deodorizer packet to black tank through the toilet.
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From "Small-RV Ninja" by Robin North. Available on Amazon.com for Kindle