

RV Setup - Dry Camping & Boondocking

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Setup checklist for camping without hookups (dry camping/boondocking).

Site Selection & Setup

- Choose level site with good drainage and legal camping status
- Position for optimal solar exposure if equipped (south-facing)
- Check ground stability for jacks/stabilizers (soft ground warning)
- Level RV using jacks or blocks (critical for appliance function)
- Set up for wind protection and privacy from other campers
- Ensure emergency exit accessibility and escape route planned

Self-Sufficient Systems

- Check fresh water tank level (fill if needed - weight consideration)
- Turn on propane at tanks and test gas detector operation
- Switch water heater to propane mode (conserve battery power)
- Set refrigerator to propane/12V mode (most efficient off-grid)
- Check house battery charge levels (12.6V+ is fully charged)
- Deploy portable solar panels if equipped (angle toward sun)

Conservation Setup & Power Management

- Set up gray water collection if permitted (check local regulations)
- Plan generator usage schedule (note quiet hours 8PM-8AM typically)
- Extend awning for outdoor living space and RV cooling
- Set up efficient outdoor cooking area (reduce interior heat)

- Check all propane tank levels (have backup tanks ready)
- Plan power and water conservation strategy for stay duration

Boondocking Pro Tips

- Use LED lights only to conserve battery power
- Cook outside when possible to reduce propane and heat load
- Take Navy showers to conserve fresh water
- Run generator during the day to recharge batteries
- Monitor battery voltage - shut off at 12.0V to prevent damage
- Keep spare propane tank and know how to change safely