

Subject:

April 2023 Newsletter from Air Safe Hitches

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Newsletter

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Articles in this Newsletter:

- [Today's thought](#)
- [The Complete & Simple RV Preparation Checklist for Spring](#)
- [How to Dewinterize Your RV to Prep for Spring Camping](#)
- [Dump station etiquette](#)
- [Trivia](#)
- [Important safety tips when leaving your RV behind](#)
- [What Are the Pros and Cons of Gooseneck Trailers?](#)
- [10 Amazing Cargo Trailer Camper Conversion Ideas 2023](#)
- [Air Safe Hitches: BLOG's](#)
- [Sponsor Links](#)

Today's thought

“Be careful what you water your dreams with. Water them with worry and fear and you will produce weeds that choke the life from your dream. Water them with optimism and solutions and you will cultivate success. Always be on the lookout for ways to nurture your dream.”

The Complete & Simple RV Preparation Checklist for Spring

RV OWNERS - LAST UPDATED ON FEBRUARY 26TH, 2023.

One of the first lessons you learn when you purchase an RV is that they require organized and regular maintenance. It's likely that as an RV owner, you fall into one of two categories: a full-timer or a seasonal camper. If you're a seasonal camper like most, you've probably kept your rig bundled up in storage through the winter months. No matter how or

when you use your RV, spring is the perfect time for annual maintenance and systemized checks.

A simple RV preparation checklist is a great way to stay organized and get your rig ready for its first road trip of the season. Plus, knowing what mistakes to avoid in the process will put your mind at ease, and make your upcoming adventures a whole lot more enjoyable!

Why spring?

In most cases, spring weather is the safest time to work on your RV without the fear of a deep freeze.

If you stored your RV throughout the winter, you probably took certain steps to winterize and prepare your rig for cold storage. If that was the case, the first step in the spring is to reverse this process and gear up for active use.

The Basic Preparation Checklist

- **Check the RV Batteries and Make Sure they have a Full Charge**
- **Flush the RV Water System and Refill it with Potable Water**
- **Check for any Water Leaks**
- **Check RV Appliances**
- **Check RV Tires**
- **Check Fluids in Engine and Generator and Change As Needed**
- **Inspect The Seams & Seal**
- **Perform A Full Safety Check**
- **Avoid Common Mistakes — See the Top 10 Mistakes Below**

1. Check the RV batteries

Batteries are a great place to start your spring spruce up. Batteries lose up to 10% of their energy per month when in storage and not in use. It's important to make sure your batteries are fully charged and have the correct water levels (check your battery manual).

If the batteries were removed for storage, make sure they are reconnected correctly. Remember! Batteries can be dangerous. Take every precaution, and if you aren't comfortable messing with them, have a service engineer do the process for you.

2. Flush The RV Water Tank, Check for Leaks, and Sanitize

You probably winterized your water tanks before putting your RV in storage. Now it's time to de-winterize and check for any leaks that may have occurred. This process takes a bit of time but will save you a lot of hassle down the road.

- Connect one end of your drinking hose to city water and the other to the RV.
- Run the water continuously through the entire system. You want to remove every trace of the non-toxic RV antifreeze you used to winterize.
- If you have an outside shower hose, be sure to flush that as well.
- If for any reason your fresh water tank had antifreeze added to it, you will need to drain off any remaining water from the tank.
- Next, add fresh potable water and turn the water pump on. Open every faucet in your RV and keep the water running until the water runs clear.
- Once clear water appears, you can turn off the pump and close the faucets.
- Fill the water heater tank with potable water and flush that system out with fresh water. There should be no remnants of antifreeze in the system.
- Once the system is completely flushed you can replace your water filter cartridge if you have one.

Now it's time to check for leaks.

Grab a flashlight and turn on the water pump. Wait until the sound of the pump stops. Once the water pump stops and the water is pressurized you can turn the pump off and begin your search.

Look underneath your sink cabinets, around the toilet, and inside your basement compartments. Anywhere water might flow you want to watch for potential leakage. Take your time with this process. If you locate a leak, be sure to have it repaired before you leave on your first trip of the season.

This is also a good time to sanitize the water system.

- Close all the drains and make sure drain plugs are in.
- Use a quarter cup of household bleach per 15 gallons of fresh water (if your water tank holds 30 gallons you will need a half cup of bleach). Combine the bleach with fresh water in a gallon container and then pour it into your partially full fresh water tank. Fill the water tank completely.

- Turn the pump on and let the water run through the faucets.
- In a short time, you will begin to smell bleach. Close the faucets and let the tank sit overnight.
- In the morning, drain all the water from the tank and fill it with fresh water.
- Turn the pump back on and let the faucets run and run until you no longer smell bleach.
- If necessary, you may want to repeat this process over the next couple of days.

Completing this process will give you peace of mind knowing that your water is clean and fresh every time!

3. Check the RV Appliances

If your RV uses propane (Also called LP gas) you need to check the tanks, the connections, the valve and the firing operation. Propane is often used to operate the hot water, the fridge, and the stove. If something isn't working correctly, have your system checked by a professional. Make sure to have a leak test and a gas pressure test each year. You want to be sure that this highly important system is working safely.

If you have refillable propane tanks, check the dates on the tanks. Most people are unaware that their propane tanks expire and must be re-certified for safety. Check yours annually.

Once your propane appliances are in compliance, spend some time checking your microwave, air conditioner, fridge or any other electric appliances in your rig. Make sure you plug into a solid source of 30 or 50 amp power. Many people choose to park their RV at an RV park while they test out their systems each spring.

4. Check the RV Tires

Tires are a hot topic in the RV industry. Some companies say RV tires should be fully replaced every 5 years. Others claim that if properly cared for they can last 10 years. Either way, you must check your tires to be sure they are ready for the season. Your entire home relies on the safety of these wheels, so give them the attention they deserve.

First, check the air pressure. While in storage, tires lose pressure. Check your manual and fill each tire according to the recommended PSI. Inspect each tire for tread wear and cracking especially in the sidewalls. If you

have any concerns, be sure to have a professional inspect the tires prior to leaving on a trip.

Don't let a blowout ruin your fun. Check those tires!

5. Inspect the RV Engine and Generator

Now we are ready to tackle the engine! Yup, the all-important part that gets you where you want to go deserves some attention too.

Start by checking all of the fluid levels and make sure they are full and fresh. If you don't know what your coach uses look in your owner's manual or contact your dealer. Here are the fluids you want to check:

- **Transmission**
- **Power Steering**
- **Engine Coolant**
- **Engine Oil**
- **Windshield Washer**
- **Brake Fluid**
- **Generator Oil**

If you have low fluids in one area, this may indicate a problem or a leak. Take some time to figure out what is happening to the fluid. You will want to service your engine and the fluids on a regular basis. If you have been doing that and you have an issue, be sure to take it in to be looked at before you hit the road.

Now check all of your gauges. Are they giving accurate readings?

Check all of your lights. Check the lights on your trailer and the connections between your RV and your trailer.

Check your registration, insurance and vehicle emissions sticker. Is everything up to date? If not, stop what you are doing and go get it done!

Your generator has been off for a long time and will need to be served according to the manual. Make sure the oil level is correct before you attempt to start the generator. If you didn't store it correctly, you may have trouble restarting it. Inspect the exhaust area before starting. Do you see any problems? If not, start the generator and plan to let it run for a couple of hours. It doesn't have to be on full load, but it needs to run for a while to get the engine ready for the season. The last thing you want is to travel without a generator.

Take the time to make sure everything is working properly.

6. Check the RV Seams

Most people forget about their RV seams. This is a mistake you don't want to make. Each and every seam has leak potential. If you inspect and reseal the seams one or two times a year you are less likely to have a leak.

Start by inspecting the roof and moving down over the body of the rig. Look for any openings, cracks or forms of damage. Is there any separation? Is there a specific area that shows wear? Use RV compatible sealants and research which type of sealant is best for the material you want to repair. If your roof shows wear, you may want to consider having it professionally resurfaced and sealed. Ask your local RV dealer for their personal recommendation. If you plan to work on the roof yourself, please be careful.

7. Explore Your Safety

With the outside complete, it's time to move back in the RV. You will want to check the following devices and update their batteries or have the items inspected and recharged

- **Smoke detector**
- **Carbon Monoxide Detector**
- **PL Gas Leak Detector**
- **Fire Extinguisher**

These 7 steps are an essential part of preparing for a safe road trip. Don't skimp. Take the time to inspect each part of your RV's system. If you are unable to do the work yourself, book a spring session with a recommended RV technician.

If you're feeling energetic, consider spring cleaning the inside of your coach as well.

Here are a few things to freshen up:

- **Bedding and Towels**
- **Rugs**
- **Blinds or Curtains**
- **Floors**
- **Inside the fridge and freezer**
- **Wipe the pantry and the drawers**

- **Wipe the shelves**
- **Wipe cabinets inside and out**
- **Blankets**
- **Lawn Furniture**
- **Wash All Pots, Pans and Dishes**
- **Clean under the sinks**
- **Wash the windows inside and outside**
- **Clean the mirrors**
- **Toss old toiletries and add new**

You may not have time to do every step listed, but this list gives you an idea of what may be needed. Every RV will be different. The key is to set time aside to prepare for the RV season.

8. Avoid RV Mistakes

Everyone makes mistakes. Even the most seasoned RVers occasionally forget to bring in the awning or properly latch the pantry. Unfortunately, some RV mistakes are more costly and dangerous than others.

In an effort to help you prevent costly repairs or unpleasant experiences, we have compiled a list of 10 RV mistakes you should avoid.

1 – Going Too Far, Too Fast

Let's face it. Not everyone has the luxury of taking an extended RV trip. Most of us are simply trying to cram in as much as possible in our two-week vacation window. But there is nothing that brings on stress during an RV trip more than a fast pace.

At the time, it might have seemed like a good idea to drive from New York to the Grand Canyon and back again during your kid's spring break, but at some point that fast pace of travel will catch up with you. After all, if you drive for six hours every day, that doesn't leave much time for fun. Slow down. Plan a less ambitious route. Take shorter trips. Enjoy your RV!

2 – Buying The Wrong RV

There's an RV out there for everyone. From small tow-behind trailers to luxury coaches with all the bells and whistles. If you take your time and explore all the options, you can find the right RV for your needs. But if

you rush into it and buy the first RV you come across, chances are good that it might not be a great fit.

Go to a few RV shows, poke around all the different kinds of RVs, and ask questions on online forums. Or maybe even rent an RV or two to get a feel for what you want and need. The right RV for you is out there, you just need to take the time to find it.

3 – Not Bringing in the Awning

You love your RV awning. It provides shade, protection from the rain, and privacy in cramped RV parks. But that same awning is also a notoriously fickle accessory. It only takes a few seconds of high wind and driving rain to turn a perfectly good awning into a heap of twisted metal and shredded fabric.

The solution is easy. Bring your awning in at the first sign of bad weather. Don't leave it out when you're not there and don't trust the automatic awning wind sensors. When it comes to expensive RV awnings you're always better safe than sorry. When in doubt ...roll it up!

4. Forgetting to Disconnect

Oops...looks like they forgot something! Have you ever seen an RV driving down the road dragging behind an electrical cord or sewer hose? It happens more often than you might think. There's a lot to remember when you pack up and leave a campground. One of the most important things is to disconnect all utilities.

5. Being a Bad Campground Neighbor

You might be a bad campground neighbor if...you blare your music late into the night, don't pick up after your dog, or carelessly dump your tanks leaving behind a mess for the next camper. No one wants to be a bad neighbor, and no one wants to camp next to a bad neighbor. Campgrounds are like small communities. If we are considerate of one another, then it is much more enjoyable for everyone.

6. Not Leveling the RV

No one wants to sleep on an angle. No one wants to make an uphill climb every time they walk from one end of the RV to the other, and NO one wants to use the RV bathroom at a slant. Luckily this is an easy problem to solve.

Simply level your RV. The process varies from RV to RV depending on what type you have, but the basic premise is the same. You can't rely on campground sites to be level (even the paved ones in fancy RV parks) so let your RV do the work for you.

7. Packing Too Much

It can be tempting to cram as much into your RV as possible. After all, if you have the space why not bring it? Here's the thing though. RVs have weight limits. Limits that when exceeded can make driving – and stopping – your RV dangerous for you and those around you on the road.

Chances are, if you stock your RV with a reasonable amount of provisions, you won't be overweight. But if you start throwing in everything from those five extra chairs, your large toolbox, and the giant cast iron dutch oven...you could be in trouble. Make a list, cross off things you don't need, check it again, and cross off a few more things. After all, in the end, an RV trip is more about the experiences you have than the things you bring.

8. Forgetting to Check and Recheck

Before driving your RV anywhere, you should always check and recheck. Walk around the rig and check the lights, the outside compartment doors, and the trailer or tow vehicle connections. Make sure the T.V. antenna or satellite dish is in place, and all the windows and vents are closed.

Inside the RV, check that all cupboards and doors are latched, check to be sure items are properly stowed, and that the refrigerator is closed all the way. Make yourself a list and go through it one at a time before driving down the road. You can save yourself a lot of potential problems and money by thoroughly checking and rechecking every time.

9. Never Defrosting the Freezer

This might seem like a small thing. But when you go to pack your RV freezer full of homemade lasagna and fresh fruit only to discover it has filled with an icy mass, you'll be glad you took the time to defrost. RV freezers are not the same as residential freezers. Over time, ice will build up in the back of the freezer, taking away precious storage space and causing the freezer to not work as well.

The process of defrosting the freezer is simple. Turn off the fridge, remove the food, and let the frost melt. To save time you can use a hairdryer to

speed up the melting process. For more detailed instructions check out this guide from the folks over at My RV Kitchen: [Defrosting RV Freezer](#).

10. Not Learning How to Drive the RV

RVs are not cars. They are tall, long, and heavy. It's important that you learn how to properly drive your RV. There are certain techniques such as slowing down in high winds, learning how to turn and properly backing up, that will probably take some time to learn.

Don't rush into it. Take your RV to a large empty parking lot and practice, practice, practice. Consider taking an [RV Driving Class](#), or maybe ask other RVers for advice and tips. Whatever you do, don't make the mistake of not learning how to drive your RV.

Final Thoughts

Don't wait until the last minute and skimp on your safety. Take some time this spring to get your RV ready so that when that travel itch hits you, you can be on the road in no time.

How to Dewinterize Your RV to Prep for Spring Camping

Tucker Ballister

January 2023

A little time, effort, and investment go a long way, and we can't overstate the importance of learning how to dewinterize your RV properly. You can do many of these tasks at home, but your [local Camping World Service Center](#) can help. Before you break your RV out of winter storage and pack for your spring camping trip, it's essential to dewinterize your RV thoroughly.

How to Dewinterize Your RV

Save this post for step-by-step guidance on preparing your RV each spring. Ian's tips above provide a good baseline but keep reading for more important spring RV maintenance tips.

Table of Contents

- [How to Dewinterize Your RV](#)

- Start with a Basic Inspection & Safety Checks
- Service the Major RV Systems
- Electrical System Checks
- Propane System Checks
- Tire Checks
- Flush and Sanitize Your Fresh Water System and Holding Tanks
- Inspect Your RV's Interior and Restock the Essentials
- Inspect and Wash Your RV's Exterior
- Now You're Ready for Spring Camping

Start with a Basic Inspection & Safety Checks

Photo by Camping World

Do this early to allow time to schedule any necessary maintenance before it's time to embark on your spring camping trip.

Take time to inspect your fire safety systems. Ensure the carbon monoxide detector, smoke alarm, LP detector, and fire extinguishers are all in working order. Consult the manuals for each device for testing and inspection criteria.

Service the Major RV Systems

From there, it's time to inspect the major systems:

- Electrical System
- Propane System
- Tire Condition

Technician Tip: The checks below will help you perform a basic walkthrough of your RV each spring. But even if each appliance and system appears to function, it may not be performing at its best.

Your 12-volt DC and 120-volt AC electrical, LP gas, and RV water systems should be professionally tested before each new season of use. These tests are complex and require specialized tools. This is NOT a DIY task.

Camping World offers specials on these important preseason tests.

Electrical System Checks

- **Visually inspect all battery connections.** If the terminals are corroded, be sure the shore power is disconnected, and you wear safety goggles and latex gloves when cleaning them off.
- **Charge your RV batteries and battery fluid levels.** Charge the battery and/or add distilled water as needed.
- **Check your generator's air filter** (if equipped) for nests and ensure it doesn't need to be replaced.
- **Prime your generator.** Generator manufacturers recommend running the unit for a specific amount of time to warm up and for a specific amount of time under load, even when it is not being used. This will keep oil in the top end to prevent dry starts and fresh fuel in the carburetor, pump, and fuel lines. Please perform this simple task to avoid fouling the carburetor and/or pump and dry rotting the fuel lines.
- Run your generator to operating temperature, shut it off, and then **check the oil level.**
- Test all appliances on the electric setting.

Propane System Checks

- **Ensure all propane appliances are turned off** (furnace, stove, oven, refrigerator, water heater).
- **Inspect the water heater, refrigerator, and furnace from the RV's exterior with a flashlight.** Remove debris from burner tubes and look for insect nests in the intake/exhaust tubes. Blow out with compressed air if available.
- **Inspect your propane lines** to be sure the seals and hoses aren't cracked.
- **Check propane levels.** Refill your LP container(s) to 80% of full capacity.
- If everything looks okay, **open the valve on the container(s) all the way.** You can check for leaks by using a soapy water solution around the valves and looking for bubbles.
- **Test all propane appliances** to setpoint multiple times if possible. Each appliance will cycle on and off based on thermostat settings. Allow them to run through a few cycles to be sure they will not fail on your first camping trip. Don't just turn them on and presume they are fine after a few seconds.
- **Check your carbon monoxide detector and propane safety alarm.** Consult the owner's manual for each device for proper testing criteria.

Tire Checks

- **Check your RV tires (and the spare) for proper inflation** when they are cold (i.e. have been sitting for at least three hours).
- **Inflate tires to the recommended tire pressure (PSI)** from your RV's manufacturer rather than the tire manufacturer, as that recommendation is based on your unit's weight and cargo carrying capacity (CCC).
- **Inspect each tire for cracks, cuts, scrapes, bulges, or bumps along the sidewall.** Anything suspicious warrants a trip to your service center for a professional opinion.
- **Check the tread depth for each tire.** A minimum of 4/32" is recommended for safe RV travel. Tires with tread depth less than 4/32" will provide poor traction in rain, snow, mud, or other slippery conditions.
- **Repack wheel bearings.** This should be done annually.

Study up on everything you need to know about RV and trailer tires. If your tires need replacement, set up an appointment to install new tires.

Flush and Sanitize Your Fresh Water System and Holding Tanks

If you use non-toxic RV antifreeze to winterize your fresh water system, you'll need to drain and flush it from the plumbing system. Do this with the following steps:

1. If removed, re-insert the low-point drain caps or plugs.
2. Put the anode rod (Suburban water heaters) or drain plug (Atwood water heaters) back in. If your anode rod wasn't removed, replace it now.
3. Repressurize the water system using either a hose or filling the fresh water tank and turning on the water pump.
4. Open faucets, showerheads (indoor and outdoor), and the toilet to flush out the antifreeze in the system.
5. Turn off the water pressure, remove the low-point drain caps, and turn the water pressure back on to flush out the remaining antifreeze from the water lines.
6. Turn off the water pressure and replace the low-point drain caps.
7. Change the valves on the water heater bypass to "use" mode. This means closing the bypass valve and opening the hot and cold valves.
8. Check the operation of your water pump and city water hook-up and test all valves, including faucets, outside shower, and toilet.

After draining and flushing the system, it should be sanitized with a proper bleach dilution or a solution like Aqua Pure. Follow the instructions on the container, but you can also consult the video above.

Inspect Your RV's Interior and Restock the Essentials

- **Thoroughly clean the interior from ceiling to floor**, using only RV-safe interior cleaning products.
- **Drain dehumidifiers** (or replace disposables), if applicable.
- **Check inside cabinets and under sinks for signs of pests or rodents.** If you discover signs, find the source and use insect and rodent-repellent solutions *before* adding any new food items to the pantry.
- **Check the water filtration system and install new filter media.** Never reuse filters from a previous season, as they may have been contaminated.
- Go through your camping supplies and **restock the essentials.**

Inspect and Wash Your RV's Exterior

- **Perform a thorough RV walkaround.** Look at the condition of windows, window seals, paint, latches, doors, door seals, compartments, and all exterior components.
- **Climb up safely and inspect the roof.** Look at seams along the edges and around all roof vents, antennas, A/C units, etc.
- If you find any cracks in the caulking or missing sealant, **remove the old sealant and replace it.**
- **Wash your RV from roof to tires** using a soft bristle brush and an RV-friendly exterior cleaner . Don't forget the awnings. They are exposed to all weather conditions and rarely see sunlight on their underside, making them prone to mildew.
- **Rinse well and dry completely.** Leave awnings extended for a few hours to dry fully before retracting. Using a soft towel to dry windows will help to prevent spots.

Now You're Ready for Spring Camping

Take the time to run these checks and perform necessary maintenance, so your spring camping season is a success. Then, all you'll need to do is pick a location and head out for an epic spring break RV vacation .

Here are a few more resources to help you plan your spring camping trip:

- RV Spring Break Destinations for Families
- RV Spring Cleaning Tips
- RV Safety Tips for Spring and Summer Storms

Dump station etiquette – How long is too long when others are waiting?

By **Dave Helgeson**

Someone recently asked: “How long is too long when others are waiting behind you at the dump station?”

This caused me to ponder an appropriate answer. How long *is* too long to occupy a dump station when others are patiently waiting?

“If you’re doing everything properly, you can get the job done in less than 15 minutes without even making a mess.” Says RV blogger Jessica Lipscomb.

I prefer to disperse camp (aka boondock) versus camp in developed campgrounds or RV parks that feature full hookups with sewer. Therefore, I am dependent on public dump stations along my route to dump my holding tanks. If potable freshwater is available, too, I will also refill my freshwater tank while I am there. I am never sure where the next opportunity to do so might present itself.

How long is too long? I like to “git r done!”

I have become very proficient at dumping my tanks, filling my freshwater tank, and getting back on the road on my way to the next boondocking camp. After all, why spend extra time to flush and rinse my black tank when we are just going to start refilling it at the next camp? In fact, I feel the same way if I am going to use the RV again in the next week or two. Why spend a bunch of time rinsing and flushing the black tank when I will be using it again soon? Just add some water and chemical to the black tank after dumping, let it slosh around on the way home and call it good!

How long is too long? 5-10 minutes?

For me, the dumping process is pulling into the dump station (hopefully without waiting behind another RVer), and stopping so that my termination outlet is close enough for me to reach the dump with my sewer hose. Then I dump the black tank and rinse the sewer hose using the

discharge from the gray tank.* I make sure the sewer hose is drained and, unless I spilled something, disconnect my sewer hose and stow it back in the bumper of my travel trailer. Done, easy peasy, in under 5 minutes.

* I utilize the following procedure to make sure I have cleared black water from the termination assembly back to the black dump valve: Once a substantial amount of gray water has entered the sewer hose I will lift the center of the sewer hose higher than the dump valves a couple of times. This will force gray water back against the now-closed black tank valve and flood the interior of the sewer hose, rinsing away any remaining black water. When I lower the sewer hose back down, the impounded gray water will then rush through the sewer hose rinsing away any solids that might be remaining from dumping the black tank.

How long is too long? Filling up freshwater too! 10-15 minutes?

Assuming there is potable water available (typically at a faucet as you begin to leave the dump area), I will pull far enough forward to allow another RVer to pull into the dump area behind me. If needed, I will use an extra length of freshwater hose to make sure I have left enough room for the next dump user, especially if they have been waiting behind me. To make sure I am able to fill my freshwater tank quickly and exit before the RVer behind me is done dumping, I have added a pressure fill system to my RV as the original (poorly designed) gravity fill took upwards of 20-30 minutes to fill my freshwater tank. I hated being the guy that held up others at the dump station as I waited for my freshwater tank to fill. Now if the pressure is good, I can fill my freshwater tank in under 5 minutes.

As you can see, for me, the process of dumping and refilling my freshwater tank is 10 minutes or so. If I am heading home and don't need to take on freshwater, it is about a 5-minute process.

Now I understand that: 1) Some RVs have more than one gray tank or more than one termination outlet. 2) You may have a disability that adds time to the process. 3) You may have to store your sewer hose in an interior compartment or a less convenient place which requires you to bag or fully drain your sewer hose, so your time to dump and fill may take longer than it take me.

So, how long is too long? 15 minutes, 20 minutes, 30 minutes, more?

To see if I could find an answer, I did an online search and found a fairly lengthy thread on the RV Tips Facebook group.

Danielle Westerhausen posted the question:

“How long is an acceptable time at the dump station when there’s a line? I feel so rushed and nervous when there’s a line of folks but I’m very particular about the process. How long are you willing to give the folks in front of you without getting too impatient??”

Following is a sampling of the answers:

Amy Bellm: “We take about 10 minutes, set routine & organized under carriageFinal one of season is about 15 min for good wash out.”

Sandie Sanderson: “Thank God there wasn’t anyone behind us, our valve stuck and it took us 30 minutes to drain it, I felt horrible and no one was even waiting.”

Donna Pearce: “You take the time you need... I will take the time I need... others will do the same... if others do not want to wait... they can get up earlier and leave earlier...”

Pay for an extra day and avoid the rush

Sandy Farkas McGinnis: “Or pay an extra day and leave later in the day after the mad rush. Then you won’t feel pushed because no line behind you.”

Combs Carol replied to Sandy Farkas McGinnis comments above: “We did that this weekend and still a small line. The guy in front of us took 1 hour; no joke and not an aggregation.”

Don Steaples: “I try to take out what I’m going to need while I’m waiting, drain as fast as I can, rinse my hoses and pull up out of the way to put everything back up”

Cindi Freeman: “Not more than 10 min. max, imo. You can pull forward to finish the process away from the tank.”

Joy Miklevich: “As long as it takes”

Art Arevee: “Reminds me of people that park at a gas pump and go inside to shop (not pay for the gas). Really annoying when all the pumps are being used. Those people live in a bubble and only care for themselves. The other side is those that are considerate. They may or may not be

efficient. If one is trying that's all you can ask of them. For a relaxed day, be flexible, things happen."

Russell Jones: "30 min"

Scott Stanley: "A BAG OF ICE DOES WONDERS, UNTIL you have more time"

Finally, regarding flushing and rinsing the black tank, Herk7769 says on Forest River Forums: "Obviously if there is a line for the dump station, you might want to wait for a full hookup campground for a serious flushing."

Here is the answer:

How long is too long? Based on my experience and the comments above: 10-15 minutes seems to be acceptable, 30 minutes is pushing it, and one hour is way too long.

For me, if there is a substantial lineup for the dump station, I will continue down the road to the next one. Here is how I locate them.

What are your thoughts on how long is too long when others are waiting? Please share your comments below or continue the discussion on my forum.

For those of you that may have been grossed out by my comment of, "Why spend a bunch of time rinsing and flushing the black tank when I will be using it again soon?" I do rinse and flush my black tank at least once or twice a year. When my RV is parked at home with the black tank empty and with the black tank valve closed, I use a holding tank rinser and some good old dish soap. The rinser will cause the soap to aggressively suds as I work it up, down and sideways in the black tank. Once the water reaches the lower neck of the toilet, I shut the rinser off and let the tank soak for a couple of days. The soaking loosens any caked-on solids, cleans the monitor tank probes, along with testing the integrity of the toilet floor flange seal. I then take the trailer to a dump station and dump the soapy contents of the black tank.

Trivia

The very first aerosol can was invented to apply ski wax. Nowadays, we use aerosol cans for everything from spray paint to sunscreen. However, prior to 1926, those cans didn't exist! It wasn't until Norwegian inventor

Erik Rotheim created a faster way to apply ski wax... a sprayable wax inside an aerosol can.

Important safety tips when leaving your RV behind

By **Nanci Dixon**

March 27, 2023

If you are leaving the RV for a couple of days in a campground, make sure to take a few precautions. We have left our motorhome at campgrounds for a couple of days or for several weeks due to family emergencies and, for the most part, everything has been fine. But there are a few things that I have learned to help keep our RV secure and put my mind at ease while we're away.

Tips for securing your RV when leaving it behind

1. Let the camp host or office know when you are leaving and when you are to be expected back. Make sure you've paid up for that time and that the campground has no issues with the RV being vacant.
2. Leave a key with the office or a trusted campground neighbor. Make sure you leave your contact info, too.
3. Put any outside items away that would be costly or hard to replace. I usually leave an old camp chair and mat out to say "coming back soon."
4. Lock all bay doors and double-check that they're locked!
5. Secure valuables inside. If the RV was broken into, what could you afford to lose? I take some essential papers with us and leave the rest in a safe. I also have digital copies of important papers that go with us.
6. Pull in awnings.
7. Let down the satellite dish and/or any other collapsible antennas.
8. Consider pulling in slides. I always debate about that. Slides pulled in shout "this RV is vacant," but doing so can save your topper awnings in wind gusts.
9. Turn off the water at the spigot. You don't want a flood inside or leaking hoses outside!
10. Make sure the water pump is off.
11. Depending on time spent away, consider emptying the fridge. The smell of rotten food can be almost impossible to get out.
12. Set a small light on a timer to go on and off in the evening.

13. If mice or, worse yet, rats are an issue, continue normal precautions. For us, that is keeping rope lights on a timer way under the RV to deter rats and spraying interior with peppermint oil. Note: Rope lights should be well under the RV to avoid disturbing neighbors.
14. Close shades or curtains. Again, all shades tightly down scream “gone” so I vary it a bit and pull just the privacy shades down in a few windows.

What Are the Pros and Cons of Gooseneck Trailers?

By Zero2Turbo 2023

Do you own a truck or pickup with a service body or flatbed and want to make money on the side hauling goods across the state? In that case, you’ll need a top-quality aluminum gooseneck trailer to make this dream a reality. However, many argue that a bumper pull trailer is the better option. How true is this, though?

This article highlights both the excellent and not-so-good features/characteristics of a gooseneck trailer. At the end of this piece, you should be able to make an informed decision when shopping for a gooseneck trailer.

But first, let’s find out what a gooseneck trailer is before dwelling on its benefits and drawbacks.

What’s a Gooseneck Trailer?

A gooseneck trailer is one with an apparent long arched neck design at its front. The ‘gooseneck’ trailer tongue makes it easy for you to hitch in the bed of your pickup or truck with its tailgate closed.

This differs from bumper pull trailers that usually come with couplers and simple straight trailer tongues that can be hitched to the bumper of a sports utility vehicle, van, or truck.

Gooseneck trailers allow users to carry all the gear they need, leaving more than enough space in the truck or pickup for your friends, family, and even personal items.

Why Should You Use a Gooseneck Trailer?

People choose gooseneck trailers for many reasons, as we'll see in a bit. For instance, gooseneck trailers usually have much higher load ratings—i.e., hauling over 40,000 lbs. of load—than conventional utility trailers.

In fact, you can easily haul a gooseneck trailer with nothing more than a truck, which is much more convenient and won't require you to rent a heavy-duty vehicle. This explains why many entrepreneurs running businesses within the landscaping industry prefer using gooseneck trailers for their business over other options.

Examining the Pros and Cons of Gooseneck Trailers

To help you make the best buying decision as you search for a suitable gooseneck trailer for your needs, here are the benefits and drawbacks of gooseneck trailers:

Pros of Gooseneck Trailers

These truck trailers are preferred for the following reasons:

1. Covers long distances hauling heavy loads.

A gooseneck trailer is what you need if you desire a transport conveyance that carries large and heavy cargo for long hauls, and with seamless balance. It's also best for pulling a toy hauler with tool storage or living quarters.

The stability gooseneck trailers offer users is practically second to none. They're also less bumpy for motorized cargo, toys, and tools.

2. Easy maneuverability.

Gooseneck trailers are revered for their stability and excellent turning radius. This is clearly evident when backing the trailer into a tight spot or making sharp turns.

Gooseneck trailers tend to turn slightly less sharply, giving you enough time to take any corrective action you desire before the trailer hits something. In addition, they are not susceptible to wind and never sway side to side, endangering other road users even when something compromises the control or stability of the vehicle towing it.

The easier maneuverability and excellent pivot point cut down the time required to park the gooseneck trailer. This is another reason gooseneck trailers are preferred over their bumper-pull counterparts.

3. More towing capacity.

Gooseneck trailers are renowned for their bigger structures and higher towing capacities. In fact, the towing capacity of gooseneck trailers is perhaps the #1 factor that attracts most people.

The first portion of a gooseneck trailer typically extends over the bed of a pickup. You can save floor space by placing shelves in the areas underneath the extension. A few users even set up makeshift sleeping quarters inside the area.

The higher towing capacity of the gooseneck trailer makes it possible for you to carry more—and heavier—equipment or gear. For example, if you're going camping, you could carry an all-terrain vehicle (ATV) and a motorcycle to camp.

If the gooseneck trailer is only for work-related purposes, you can haul more heavy-duty equipment or materials, saving you a lot of time and money. This is a game changer as gooseneck trailers have been proven to do the work of two bumper pull trailers easily.

Therefore, instead of owning multiple bumper pull trailers, a gooseneck trailer can eliminate this need and help boost productivity at your workplace or business.

4. Harder to steal.

Stealing a gooseneck trailer is highly unlikely because using one requires at least a pickup. In fact, your pickup will need to be outfitted with a special adaptor that mounts to the pickup bed.

Many people don't have gooseneck attachments installed in their pickups, and those that do usually remove them when they're not in use since they take up a lot of space. As a result, stealing your gooseneck trailer is practically impossible because no one can pull it off without the special adaptors securely in place.

5. There are some budget-friendly options.

Although goosenecks can be pretty expensive, you'll find several budget-friendly variants if you look closely enough.

Gooseneck trailers are typically constructed with aluminum, galvanized steel, or steel. The last two options are far less expensive than the type made with aluminum. With this luxury of choice, you can be sure to find a customizable gooseneck trailer that will be perfect for your needs.

Cons of Gooseneck Trailers

While gooseneck trailers present multiple perks, they still have certain drawbacks, as we'll observe below.

1. Some options could cost a lot.

We mentioned earlier that gooseneck trailers made with steel are relatively cost-effective. However, this doesn't change the pricey tags associated with those constructed with aluminum. Even the actual hitching unit can be much costly to start with.

2. You'll need a truck to use a gooseneck trailer.

A gooseneck trailer is practically useless if there's no vehicle to tow it. So, if you're scouring the market for a gooseneck trailer, it's a no-brainer that you must own a vehicle capable of towing it to start with.

If you don't own a truck, you may have to rent one, which means more money out of your pocket.

Conclusion

So far, we've thrown light on a gooseneck trailer's different benefits and drawbacks. Which of these are deal breakers for you, and which are you willing to overlook? Ultimately, your final choice will come down to certain factors, such as what you intend to use this truck trailer for, among others.

10 Amazing Cargo Trailer Camper Conversion Ideas 2023

There are many ways to convert a cargo trailer into a camper. Some people choose to do it themselves, while others hire professional

companies to do the work for them. No matter which route you choose, there are a few things that you should keep in mind during your project.

This article will give you some great **cargo trailer camper conversion ideas** to get you started.

Can You Convert a Cargo Trailer Into a Camper?

Yes, you can convert a cargo trailer into a camper. The most important thing to consider is how you will use the space inside the trailer. Will you be using it for sleeping, cooking, or both?

Once you have a good idea of how you want to use the space, you can start planning your conversion.

The Best Cargo Trailer Camper Conversion Ideas

These are just a few **cargo trailer camper conversion ideas** to get you started. Use your imagination and creativity to come up with a layout that's perfect for you. With a little hard work, you can turn your cargo trailer into the camper of your dreams.

6×12 Cargo Trailer Conversion into Stealth Off-Grid Camper

The trailer in the video is a Lightning single axle, all-aluminum **12×6 cargo trailer**. The total cost of the DIY conversion project was approximately \$16,000 CAD.

For years, Cedric Yves Denis has been living the nomadic lifestyle of a freeskiier, traveling to different mountains around the world in search of the perfect powder.

A few years ago, he decided to take his nomadic lifestyle one step further by converting a cargo trailer into an off-grid camper. The interior of the camper is simple and functional, with a converting couch bed, a wood stove, a spacious kitchen, a removable table, and loads of storage.

With his camper, Cedric can park and live almost anywhere in the world, making it the perfect basecamp for his free skiing adventures.

6X12 Cargo Trailer Camper Built for under \$5000

You've seen them all over the place. Those big, roomy cargo trailers that people use to haul around their stuff. But have you ever wondered if you could use one of those trailers to build your camper?

Well, as it turns out, you can. And, what's even better, is that you can do it for under \$5000. In this video, the YouTube channel '**Pete P**' takes us through the process of building a **6X12 cargo trailer camper** .

Tips: Short trailers tend to swing wide when making turns, which can be dangerous if you're not careful. That's why we recommend using trailer brakes on small trailers like this one.

Trailer brakes will help keep the trailer going straight, even when making sharp turns. The last thing you want is for your cargo trailer to tip over, so it's better to be safe than sorry.

Plus, it's always a good idea to err on the side of caution when it comes to safety. So if you're planning on doing any towing with your cargo trailer, make sure you equip it with trailer brakes.

Enclosed Trailer Camper Conversion

Rick and Sharon are self-described "weekend warriors." They love to get away from it all, but they don't like the hassle of setting up and taking down a traditional camping setup.

That's why they decided to convert a cargo trailer into a camper. The process was surprisingly simple. They started with a 6x12x6 cargo trailer and outfitted it with basic amenities like a bed, sink, and stove. They also added a few luxuries, like a small fridge and a television.

5x8 Cargo Trailer Camper Conversion

Looking to convert your cargo trailer into an RV? Here's a great example of what you can do! This **5x8 cargo trailer** has been converted into a cozy little RV, complete with a convertible dinette bed, an exhaust fan, a heater, a sink, and a stove. The entire interior is pine-clad, giving it a warm and inviting feeling. Plus, all of the necessary amenities are there, so you can hit the road in style!

This camper is perfect for those who love to camp but also want to be able to enjoy some of the comforts of home. It features LED lighting and a window on each side, making it bright and airy inside.

The camper is also **off-grid capable**, meaning that it can be powered by a portable solar panel or generator. This makes it perfect for those who want to camp in remote locations.

The 5×8 Cargo Trailer camper is also big enough to comfortably sleep two people, making it a great option for couples or small families. Whether you're looking for a weekend getaway or a longer camping trip, this camper will make your experience more enjoyable.

Best Cargo Trailer Toy Hauler Conversion

Looking to convert a cargo trailer into a toy hauler? Check out this video for some inspiration. This particular build costs around \$14,000 and features 800w of solar panels, making it ideal for those who enjoy spending time outdoors.

A cargo trailer conversion toy hauler is a great way to enjoy the outdoors with all the comforts of home. They are built to haul your toys, but they also have all the amenities you need to relax and enjoy your time away from home.

This camper has a kitchen area with a stove and sink, as well as a television and microwave. The best part of these trailers is the RV drop-down bed. This allows you to sleep comfortably inside the trailer without having to set up a tent. Whether you want to camp in style or just use it for extra storage, a cargo trailer conversion toy hauler is a great investment.

With some careful planning and attention to detail, you can have your very own toy hauler that will provide years of enjoyment. So what are you waiting for? Get started on your build today!

\$ 7,200 Cargo Trailer Camper Conversion with Bathroom

This cargo trailer camper is truly one-of-a-kind. What sets it apart is its unique cabin vibe, which is created by the 7×14 Anvil cargo trailer that is 7 ft tall.

This gives the camper a lot of extra space and makes it feel much more like a home than a traditional RV. Additionally, the furniture and accessories in this camper are all from Ikea, which gives it a sleek and modern look.

One of the best features of this camper is the shower, which allows you to have all the comforts of home while on the road. If you're looking for a unique and stylish RV, this cargo trailer camper is worth checking out.

The total cost is \$7200, with around \$3200 for materials. It also weighs 2920 lbs, making it a great option for those looking for a lightweight option.

Also Read: Blue Vinyl Tiny Trailer House Has All Comfort

Off-Road Enclosed Trailer Conversion

For the adventurer who wants to be self-sufficient no matter where they go, an off-road cargo trailer conversion is the way to go.

These trailers are fully outfitted with everything you need to live comfortably on the road, including 200ah of lithium batteries, 400 watts of solar, hot showers, a full kitchen, and a big refrigerator.

They're also built to withstand any terrain, so you can take them anywhere your heart desires. Whether you're looking to explore the country or just escape the hustle and bustle of everyday life, an off-road cargo trailer conversion is the perfect solution.

\$55,000 2 Kilowatt Cargo Trailer Conversion

If you're looking for a luxurious and practical way to travel, then you need to check out this 2 Kilowatt Cargo Trailer Conversion. This stunning trailer has been transformed into a comfortable living space, complete with a crypt bed area, hidden toilets, and a washing machine.

Plus, the surround sound system means that you can enjoy your favorite music anywhere you go. And the best part is that the total cost of this conversion is just \$55,000.

That's a small price to pay for the ultimate in mobile luxury. So if you're looking for a new way to travel, be sure to check out this 2 Kilowatt Cargo Trailer Conversion. You won't be disappointed.

7×12 Modern Cargo Trailer Conversion

You don't need a fancy RV to enjoy the great outdoors. This converted cargo trailer provides all the comforts of home in a compact package. The

walls and ceiling are lined with wood paneling, giving the interior a cozy, cabin-like feel.

The main living area features a couch that doubles as a bed, along with a large countertop and sink. The dinette area converts into a second bed, making this trailer perfect for families or groups of friends.

There's even a Thetford toilet in this cargo trailer, and a diesel heater to keep it warm in the winter. This video provides a tour of the finished product, as well as some tips on how to complete your cargo trailer conversion.

Solo Female Minimalist Converts Trailer

Lex & Riot are living proof that you don't need a lot of stuff to be happy. As a solo female traveler, Lex has embraced the nomadic lifestyle and has been on the road for several years.

During that time, she has converted an All-Terrain Cargo Trailer into a Tiny Home on Wheels, complete with all the essentials for comfortable living. While her living space may be small, it allows her to pursue her passion for adventure and travel.

And as she regularly documents on her popular YouTube channel, Lex & Riot, these experiences are far more valuable than material possessions. For anyone who feels burdened by their stuff, Lex & Riot offers an inspiring example of how to live a simpler, happier life.

How to Convert a Cargo Trailer Into a Camper

If you're planning on converting a cargo trailer into a camper, there are a few things that you need to keep in mind.

First, you need to decide what kind of camper you want.

There are two main types: a pop-up camper and a fifth-wheel camper. Pop-up campers are the most popular type of camper. They're easy to tow and set up, and they don't require any special equipment. Fifth-wheel campers are a bit more difficult to tow, but they offer more space and amenities.

Once you've decided on the type of camper you want, you need to choose a design. There are many different ways to design a cargo trailer camper,

so take your time and look at all of your options. You can find plenty of inspiration online or in magazines.

You also need to decide what kind of layout you want for your camper. The layout will determine how much space you have and what kind of furniture you can put inside.

Gather the materials and supplies.

Once you have a design in mind, you need to gather the materials and supplies that you'll need for the project. This includes things like insulation, plywood, and flooring. You can usually find everything you need at your local home improvement store.

Start the conversion process.

Now it's time to start the actual conversion process. You need to install the insulation. This is one of the most important parts of the conversion, so don't skimp on this step. Use high-quality insulation that will keep your camper warm in the winter and cool in the summer.

After the insulation is installed, you can start working on the walls. You can use paneling, drywall, or even paint to finish the walls. Choose a material that's easy to clean and that will resist moisture.

Once the walls are finished, you can move on to the ceiling. You can install a dropped ceiling or use regular ceiling tiles. Choose a ceiling that's easy to clean and that won't sag over time.

The last step is to install the flooring. You can use carpet, tile, linoleum, or any other type of flooring you like. Just make sure it's durable and easy to clean.

Take your time and be careful, and you'll end up with a camper that you're proud of.

Converting a cargo trailer into a camper is a great way to save money on accommodation while you're traveling. With a little bit of work, you can have a camper that's comfortable and stylish. Use these ideas to get started on your project.

Free Cargo Trailer Conversion Plans

Looking to convert a cargo trailer into a camper on a budget? There are plenty of free plans available online that can help you do just that.

With a little elbow grease and some creative thinking, you can easily turn a cargo trailer into a comfortable and functional home away from home. Here are just a few of the many free cargo trailer conversion plans available online:

- **Instructables:** If you're looking for something more elaborate, Instructables offers detailed plans for building a luxurious camper van complete with all the bells and whistles.
- **Pinterest:** For a more simplistic approach, check out this Pinterest board which features several different cargo trailer conversion ideas.

With so many free resources available, there's no excuse not to try your hand at cargo trailer conversion. With patience and some hard work, you can easily create the camper of your dreams without breaking the bank.

FAQs

Is a Converted Cargo Trailer Welcome in RV Parks?

Yes, most RV parks will allow you to park your converted cargo trailer. However, When deciding if a converted cargo trailer is welcome in RV parks, it is important to understand that these parks are designed for motorhomes and travel trailers.

This does not mean that converted vans are not allowed, but they may not be as common. It is always best to call ahead to the RV park to ask about their policies on converted vans. In most cases, the RV park will be happy to accommodate you, but it is always best to be prepared.

In addition, it is important to understand that converted vans may not have all the same amenities as an RV, so you may have to sacrifice some of the comforts of home while on your trip.

Is a cargo trailer considered an RV?

No, Basically, if you need a truck to tow it, it's a trailer. When it comes to hitches, there are two general categories: trailers and RVs. RVs are self-contained units that can be driven from point A to point B.

In contrast, trailers must be towed by another vehicle, such as a car, truck, or SUV. Cargo trailers fall into the latter category. These trailers are designed for hauling larger items, such as furniture or sports equipment.

Is it safe to sleep in a cargo trailer?

When it comes to safety, there are many risks associated with sleeping in a cargo trailer. Most troop trailers do not have adequate ventilation, which can lead to asphyxiation. In addition, the close quarters of a cargo trailer can create a fire hazard if proper precautions are not taken. For these reasons, it is generally not recommended to sleep in a cargo trailer.

However, if you do choose to do so, be sure to open the doors and windows for ventilation and take extra care to avoid any potential fire hazards.

Is it cheaper to convert a cargo trailer into a camper?

If you're considering a cargo trailer to camper conversion, it's important to know the approximate cost. For most conversions, you're looking at between \$5,000 and USD 15,000 total for the trailer and build.

This will, of course, vary depending on the design and amenities you are looking for and how much you want to do yourself compared to getting professionally installed.

However, even if you go with a basic setup, you can still expect to spend several thousand dollars on the project. If you're handy and have some experience with carpentry or electrical work, you may be able to save some money by doing some of the work yourself.

However, it's important to factor in the cost of materials and any special equipment you may need to rent or purchase. In addition, it's worth considering the time investment required to complete the project.

If you're short on time or simply not interested in taking on a major DIY project, hiring a professional may be the best option.

Overall, the cost of a cargo trailer to camper conversion can vary widely depending on your needs and preferences. However, it's important to have a realistic expectation of the costs before getting started.

Final Words

A cargo trailer camper conversion can be a great way to save money and create the perfect space for your next adventure. However, it's important to understand the risks and costs associated with such a project before getting started.

Be sure to do your research and plan carefully to ensure a successful and safe conversion. Most importantly, have fun and enjoy the process!

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