

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