

Travel Trailer Campsite Arrival & Departure

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A practical campsite routine for surveying, unhitching, connecting utilities, breaking camp, dumping tanks, and hitching for departure.

Important safety notice

This checklist is a general memory aid for people already familiar with their equipment. It is not operating instruction, training, inspection, certification, or a determination that an RV is safe or roadworthy. It cannot account for your equipment, loading, condition, environment, or applicable law. Follow current manuals, labels, and qualified guidance. Stop when a condition or required check is unclear, unsafe, damaged, or cannot be verified; get qualified or emergency help as appropriate.

Check In, Survey & Position

- ☐ **Campground check-in and firewood rules completed**
Follow campground and local rules when buying or transporting firewood.
- ☐ **Route walked for turns, obstacles, and best approach**
- ☐ **Site size, branches, and utility condition confirmed**
Ask staff about another site before positioning if the assigned site is unsafe.
- ☐ **Trailer position allows slide, awning, and utility clearance · As equipped**
- ☐ **Side-to-side level corrected before unhitching · Use rated leveling equipment**
- ☐ **Parking brake set and wheel chocks seated**

STOP

Reposition or request another site when clearance, ground support, utility reach, backing visibility, or the exit path is unsafe.

Unhitch, Level & Stabilize

- ☐ **Seven-way, breakaway, and safety chains released safely**
Follow the exact hitch manual for connection order and cable handling.
- ☐ **Weight-distribution and sway equipment removed and stored · As equipped**
- ☐ **Coupler released and tow vehicle pulled straight away**
- ☐ **Front-to-back level set with the tongue jack · Per trailer manual**
- ☐ **Front and rear stabilizers set to even contact · As equipped**
Stabilizers control motion; do not use them to lift or level the trailer.
- ☐ **Entry steps placed and storage compartments secured**

STOP

Keep chocks in place after unhitching. Stop if the coupler binds or the trailer shifts, and realign using the hitch manual.

Connect Campsite Utilities

- ☐ Pedestal inspected with breaker off before connection
- ☐ Rated adapter, protection device, and shore cord connected · As equipped
- ☐ Potable regulator, filter, hose, and inlet connected · If using city water
- ☐ Water opened gradually and fittings checked for leaks
- ☐ Gloves worn and sewer fittings locked at both ends · At an approved connection
- ☐ Sewer hose supported and protected along its full run
- ☐ Black and gray tank valves remain closed until dumping

STOP

Do not use damaged electrical equipment or a leaking sewer connection. Keep potable-water gear separate from sewer and rinse equipment.

Open Up & Settle In

- ☐ Propane service and water heater started by manual · If equipped and needed
- ☐ Slide paths checked before slide extension · If equipped
- ☐ Stabilizer contact rechecked after slide extension · If equipped
- ☐ Awning conditions checked against weather and manual limits · If equipped
- ☐ Retract it before leaving the site and at night when conditions warrant.
- ☐ Refrigerator and cabinets opened carefully after travel
- ☐ Bathroom, living-area, and stove vents set for use · As equipped
- ☐ Beds, personal gear, lights, and campsite items arranged

STOP

For propane odor, an LP or CO alarm, water heater uncertainty, arcing, or a burning odor, move people to safety and follow the equipment emergency instructions.

Secure Interior & Campsite

- ☐ Belongings packed low and restrained for travel
- ☐ Chairs, lights, bicycles, and campsite gear stored · As used
- ☐ Cabinets, drawers, refrigerator, and loose items secured
- ☐ Floor swept clear around the slide path · If equipped
- ☐ Roof vents, stove vent, and windows travel-set · As equipped
- ☐ Slide roof inspected safely and debris cleared · If equipped
- ☐ Slide and awning retracted by their manuals · As equipped
- ☐ Outdoor rug dried, folded, and stored · If used

Dump Tanks & Disconnect Utilities

- ☐ Gloves on and sewer connections tug-checked
- ☐ Black tank dumped and rinsed by equipment instructions · At an approved connection
- ☐ Black valve closed before gray tank is dumped
- ☐ Gray tank dumped until flow is finished
- ☐ Both tank valves closed and outlet cap secured
- ☐ Sewer hose drained, capped, and stored separately
- ☐ Remove gloves and wash hands after sewer equipment is put away.
- ☐ Water heater and propane service shut down · As equipped
- ☐ Pedestal breaker off before shore-cord disconnection
- ☐ City water off, depressurized, drained, and stored · If connected

QUALIFIED HELP Stop for propane odor, water heater uncertainty, a pressurized fitting, electrical damage, sewage leak, or valve that will not close. Use qualified help.

Hitch & Complete Final Walkaround

- ☐ Battery state and required electrical loads confirmed · Per appliance and trailer manuals
- ☐ Rear and front stabilizers fully travel-stowed · As equipped
- ☐ Coupler engagement, latch, retainer, and tug test verified
- ☐ Sway and weight-distribution equipment secured · As equipped
- ☐ Crossed chains and independent breakaway connected
- ☐ Seven-way connected with safe turning clearance
- ☐ Tongue jack, foot, blocks, and chocks travel-stowed
- ☐ Cold trailer tire pressures checked against labels
- ☐ Steps, door, handle, hatches, and compartments secured
- ☐ Trailer lights and low-speed brake response confirmed
- ☐ Site sweep finds no blocks, gear, trash, or fire hazard

STOP Do not depart with uncertain coupler engagement, brake response, tire condition, cable routing, deployed equipment, or an unsecured opening.