

Your Motorhome Checklist For The Road

Setting Up Camp

- Unhook the Toad** – Make sure the car is in PARK before unhitching. Stow and cover hitch as applicable.
- Level the Motorhome** – Use blocks as necessary to level or protect the site surface.
- Connect the Exterior Electric Cord** to the park power station after **first turning OFF the breaker** at the park post. After connecting the cord, turn the breaker on. **Important:** Check the voltage gauge inside to ensure that the current is properly polarized and power is ON. If not, you may have to move to another site.

(See the *Managing Power* section in [For Women Only – Motorhome Care & Maintenance](#) or [Conquer the Road, RV Maintenance for Travelers](#) for more information.)

- Connect the Water** – *Open the Park faucet first* for a few seconds to allow any crud buildup from minerals in the local water to flow out. This keeps the filter in your hose (or the motorhome outside water station filter) from clogging up. If you travel with a water pressure gauge, connect it first to ensure the pressure is no higher than 55 psi. The water pressure connectors without a gauge usually decrease the pressure to a standard 40 psi. Make sure there are no leaks. Check the inside faucets for the proper flow.
- Connect the Sewer Hose** – Ensure that there are no leaks as this is unlawful in most counties. Open the gray water valve, leave the black water closed. This procedure depends entirely on the length of your stay in the park; if overnight, don't bother to connect it.
- Turn Refrigerator to Electric** – When first connected to park power, **turn the refrigerator switch to OFF, wait two seconds, turn ON**. This procedure lengthens the life of the on/off switch. If already on propane for travel (not recommended), switch it to electric or not, your choice.
- Check Interior Monitor Gauges** – This is a good time to ensure that there is plenty of propane (if you use it); that there is a small amount of water in the fresh water tank for emergencies (unless you boondock); and the coach batteries are fully charged.
- Hook up Cable TV** – If you have paid for cable TV, look for the connector near the electric post. It should be a thin, shielded, black wire with a coaxial connector. Some parks provide an extension from their post to your connector, but most parks expect you to provide this cable section. Carrying a spare 25 ft. RJ6 cable extension is a practical solution.

Leaving Camp

Inside the Motorhome

Add your own items to these suggestions:

- Close and lock all windows.
- Retract TV antenna, if used.
- Put away all loose items.
- Place shower head on the floor of the shower; store the shampoo and soap.
- Check that all cabinets are closed and in the locked position.

- All slideouts should be in the travel position with locking pins in place.
- Turn refrigerator OFF.
- Properly secure the windshield curtains. This is particularly important safety measure on the driver's side, if this window is opened while traveling down the road.

Outside the Motorhome

- Turn OFF the Propane** (if applicable).
- Turn off the Water** – store the fresh water hose and connectors.
- Dump the Black Water Tank first.** Next, pull the gray water valve to rinse the hose. If not, use a spare small hose to rinse out the sewer hose for storage.
- Turn OFF the Breaker at the Park Power Post.** Unplug your power cord and stow it.
- Roll up the Awning** – Use Velcro strips to secure the arms for travel. Do not forget the **side** window awnings.

Before Leaving Home

- Engine Serviced** – Change oil, gas and air filters. Check the radiator for the proper level of coolant. Ensure the transmission fluid is at the proper level and clean; the same for the power steering. Check brake fluid, windshield wiper blades and their washer fluid.
- Check Lights** – This includes running lights, headlights, taillights, turn signals.
- Tires Checked** – Look for cracks, low tread, and low pressure. Look on the tire for the correct pressure psi.
- Run the Generator** – For at least 30 minutes, run it with the air conditioner or heater on. Do not add any loads until the generator is running for about five minutes. Turn OFF accessories before shutting down the generator.
- Check Coach Batteries** – Check the water level in the coach batteries. Add distilled water, if necessary, to $\frac{1}{8}$ inch below the fill well.
- Clean Windshield** – Vinegar and water (1 cup vinegar to 1 gallon water) works well with few streaks.

➡ **Start a Maintenance and trip diary!**

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Conquer the Road - RV Maintenance for Travelers
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