

RV TAKE-DOWN CHECKLIST



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INTERIOR PREP

Loose Items

- Put away all loose gear (loft, counters, tables, ladder, garage).
- Secure small appliances (coffee maker, air fryer, fan).
- Sweep or vacuum floors to remove debris.

Surfaces & Storage

- Clear countertops and collapse extensions (lock if applicable).
- Store heavy items in lower cabinets.
- Close and latch all drawers, doors, and sliding partitions.
- Remove loose stove grates and store in trash can.
- Place microwave tray in trash can for travel.

Bathroom Prep

- Toilet lid down; secure toiletries and toilet paper holder.
- Shower door latched (or open if spring-loaded).
- Lay showerhead on floor or secure it to prevent falls.

Furniture & Electronics

- Strap or stow loose furniture.
- Collapse or lock swing-arm TVs.
- Lock refrigerator if equipped.

Windows & Blinds

- Close and lock all windows.
- Lower blinds or curtains.

UTILITIES & SLIDE RETRACTION

Turn Off All Appliances & Systems

- Furnace/AC thermostat
- Water heater (*both inside & outside switches*)
- Water pump (*inside + outside, if applicable*)
- Interior/exterior lights & electronics
- Turn off inverter

Roof & Vents

- Retract TV antenna (if applicable).
- Disconnect and put away internet equipment. (*if not mounted*)
- Close all ceiling fans.

Retract Slideouts

- Sweep floors first to avoid debris damage.
- Double-check for obstacles inside and outside.
- Fully retract and secure each slide.

Retract Awnings

- Retract and lock awnings securely.

Propane

- Turn off propane at the tanks. (it is a law in some states and a safety hazard if left on).

Pack Up Outdoor Gear

- Stow rugs, chairs, tables, grills, mats, patio lights, fire pits, etc.
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WASTE MANAGEMENT

- Put On Gloves**
 - Always wear gloves when handling sewer equipment.
 - Drain Holding Tanks (Full Hookups)**
 - Black tank first: Fully dump, then rinse until clear. *Never leave unattended while rinsing.*
 - Close black valve.
 - Gray tank last: Dump to flush hose with grey water.
 - **⚠ Important:** *Never rinse your sewer hose with your potable (fresh water) hose — this can cause serious bacterial contamination and compromise your fresh water system.*
 - Optional: Black Tank Flush**
 - If you don't have a Y-connector at the city water spigot, disconnect your fresh water hose first.
 - Attach the black tank flush hose to the spigot.
 - Use a water pressure regulator and a brass backflow preventer to protect your plumbing and prevent contamination.
 - Connect the hose to your RV's black tank flush inlet (confirm it's labeled "Black Tank Flush").
 - Do not connect this hose to the city water or fresh water inlet.
 - If your RV doesn't have a black tank flush connection, use a toilet wand/sprayer instead.
 - *Option: You may keep the black tank valve closed briefly to fill and agitate the tank before dumping — but this is risky. Monitor closely to avoid overflow through the toilet.*
 - Open the black tank valve and run water until the discharge runs clear.
 - Turn off the water, close all valves, disconnect the hose, and stow all sewer gear properly.
 - Stow Sewer Equipment**
 - Ensure all valves are closed.
 - disconnect sewer hose from RV.
 - Lift it up and walk it down to ground sewer connection. (ensure all remaining liquid is out).
 - Disconnect from ground. (ensure cap to ground cap sewer outlet is placed back).
 - Stow in dedicated bin or compartment.
 - Dispose of gloves and sanitize hands.
 - Add Tank Treatment** *(will clean tanks as you drive)*
 - Close all valves.
 - Add treatment/deodorizer + 1–3 gallons of water to each tank.
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WATER MANAGEMENT

- Check Freshwater Tank Level**
 - Decide whether to travel **empty** or **partially filled** (keep in mind that water adds significant weight).
 - Turn Off Water Supply**
 - Shut off the spigot at the water source.
 - Relieve Water Pressure**
 - Run a faucet inside the RV until water stops flowing.
 - If your RV has a **“Power Fill”** or **“Fill Fresh Tank”** option, run it for about **1 minute** to clear excess water from the hose.
 - Disconnect & Drain Components**
 - Disconnect the hose, pressure regulator, and water filter.
 - Let water drain from each before stowing.
 - When disconnecting from the **city water connection**, allow remaining water to run out and **avoid letting hose ends touch the ground**.
 - Final Setup**
 - Disconnect the hose from the RV.
 - Adjust valves to **“Tank Use”** if you’ll be drawing water from your onboard freshwater tank while traveling. *(Do not travel with water pump on).*
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POWER & STABILIZERS

- Disconnect Power**
 - Turn off breaker at pedestal.
 - Turn off power to RV.
 - Unplug surge protector and power cord.
 - Stow cords and adapters securely.
 - Close power inlet cap.
 - Turn back on RV Power *(limit if applicable solar, refrigerator, jacks).*
 - Retract Stabilizers & Steps**
 - Retract stabilizing jacks.
 - Retract entry steps.
 - Remove Tire Stabilizers**
 - Remove X-chocks or wheel locks before adjusting tongue jack.
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HITCHING

- Tire Check**
 - Inspect tires for wear, cracks, or debris.
 - Check and adjust tire pressure (RV + tow vehicle).
 - Torque lug nuts (*use torque wrench & don't over torque*)
 - Optional Hitch Maintenance**
 - Apply **red hitch ball grease** to reduce friction and extend the life of the coupler.
 - Use **white silicone lubricant** on sway bar connections to minimize noise and prevent long-term wear. (*DO NOT USE WD-40*)
 - Hitch Connection**
 - Raise the tongue jack so the coupler is slightly higher than the hitch ball.
 - Back the tow vehicle into position, aligning the ball directly under the coupler (avoid backing too far).
 - Secure the Coupler**
 - Lower the jack to seat the coupler onto the ball.
 - Lock the coupler latch securely.
 - Insert a coupler pin or lock to confirm it's secured.
 - Attach Weight Distribution Bars (if applicable)**
 - Raise the tongue jack slightly to relieve tension before installing the bars.
 - Attach and secure the bars, then lower the jack completely.
 - Connect Safety Components**
 - Attach safety chains, crossing them under the coupler (they should hang freely but not drag).
 - Connect the breakaway cable to a solid point on the tow vehicle (not the chain).
 - Raise the Jack**
 - Fully retract the front jack/tongue jack.
 - Connect Power**
 - Plug the trailer's electrical cord into the tow vehicle socket.
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FINAL STEPS & CHECKS

- Lighting Test**
 - Turn on truck lights (*some trucks automatic works*).
 - Verify all trailer lights: brake, turn signals, and running lights.
- Tug Test**
 - Remove chocks slightly away from the wheels (but keep them nearby).
 - Gently pull forward to confirm the hitch is locked and secure.
- Remove all chocks & remove levelers.**
 - Pull off leveling blocks; stow them.
- Walk-around & Roll Out**
 - Lock all compartments and entry doors.
 - Do a full 360° inspection: slides, stabilizers, steps, awnings, and vents all up and secure.
 - Use a spotter if possible when pulling out.
- Recheck:** After driving a short distance, stop and recheck all hitch connections, lights, and tire pressure/heat.



OUR LIFE IN TOW

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