

100+ **PRO** TIPS BOONDOCKING

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WELCOME

Boondocking or dry-camping in an RV requires a different set of skills than staying in a full-hookup campground.

Preparation, practice and flexibility are necessary to gain the self-sufficiency and confidence to live comfortably in your RV for extended periods.

With some practice **you can do it** and these tips should help.

There are 100 tips for you to try out and perfect on your own. Many were passed down from other seasoned RVers through the years while others were a result of our own experimentation and revelation.

Hopefully this resource will give you a head start and set you along your own path to become a confident and skilled boondocker.

I've grouped the tips into categories like "water conservation" and "finding a campsite" to help you find what you're looking for.

Cheers!

Brian

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BEFORE BUYING

Choose a smaller RV with a higher road clearance

Many of the best boondocking spots are down narrow unmaintained dirt roads that are difficult to access with a large RV. Washboarded or uneven roads are very common.

Boondocking in a large rig is possible, but your options will be limited to large flat areas.

Avoid electrical equipment that needs AC power to run 24 hours a day

RVs with large power-hungry residential style equipment can be enticing until you decide to try boondocking off-grid. Residential refrigerators for example need to be powered throughout the day and night on AC power.

Know up-front when RV shopping that these high-draw appliances will limit your ability to boondock unless you invest in a larger-than-average off-grid setup.

Choose an RV with a larger water and waste tank capacity

Unlike power which is a renewable resource, drinking and waste water tank size will be the determining factor for how many days you can spend boondocking.

How much you personally consume (or fill) on a daily basis will be something you'll need to figure out on your own. No RV salesman will be able to accurately tell you how long 50 gallons of fresh water will last.

So make sure your RV has the largest tank capacity that you can get for the model you're looking at.

Don't spend all your money on the initial RV purchase. Set aside some for RV upgrades

Lots of folks spend their entire budget on the RV only to find out that they have nothing left to make the modifications for boondocking.

Once you've figured out what your style of RVing is, you'll want to have money to make the necessary upgrades. How

GETTING TO KNOW YOUR RV

Identify electrical and gas powered equipment in your RV

Learn which components can be powered with propane and which need AC or DC power to run. Determine what you can run on DC power alone.

Get familiar with your storage tank capacity (water, waste, propane, fuel) and how to monitor them

This is something you don't think much about when you're in an RV park where resources seem limitless. Once you start boondocking, the capacity of your tanks becomes very important.

You'll start to realize details like *"my 50 gallon water tank will never fill my 60 gallon gray water tank"* and *"my water heater also is full of fresh water"*.

Know your RV height, width, ground clearance and turning radius

This is necessary information to know regardless of whether you're going boondocking. While boondocking, the chances you'll encounter road limitations and obstacles increase. So it becomes very important to know how your RV can handle different conditions.

Get comfortable backing up and turning your RV around in tight quarters

Forest roads can be narrow and don't always have areas to turn around. So you should be able to look at an area and determine whether you will be able to get in and out safely.

PREPARING YOUR RV

Make sure your vehicle is in good working order

Your vehicle should be reliable and in good working order. If you drive a motorhome, this is your chassis. If you have a towable, this is your truck. Have you performed all routine maintenance? Do you have reliable tires? If you're not a mechanic, consider having your vehicle checked out before heading out to a remote location.

Make sure your RV equipment is in good working order

Do all of your appliances work properly. Turn on the refrigerator. Run your generator. Open and close the slide outs. Raise and lower levellers and stabilizer jacks. Turn on the heat. Test your outlets. Test your equipment in both electric and propane modes. Do all of those things you will typically do when out camping. Fix any issues that you encounter so there are no surprises.

Put your RV to the test

Disconnect for a weekend to figure out what your RV's capabilities and limitations are when disconnected from power, water, and sewer.

Start by fueling up, charging your batteries, filling your water and propane. Then head to the closest campground and don't plug in.

Camp without hookups for a couple days in a nearby campground. While out, keep a typical routine and make note of what worked well and what didn't. You'll have a good baseline to start identifying potential upgrades.

As you make upgrades, go out and test them. Keep practicing your boondocking skills and gradually extend your stay to build your confidence. Work your way out to more primitive campsites.