

# BOONDOCKING COURSE

PART 1

# Water



*tinysshinyhome*

## WHERE DO YOU STORE WATER?

Most RVs have a \_\_\_\_\_ tank!

It uses a water \_\_\_\_\_ to direct the water to your faucets and shower.

## WHERE DO YOU GET WATER?

Lots of places! Let's go over a few options.

### 1. Filling up before you reach your destination

If you have a home base, it's easy to just use your hose at your house to fill up before you leave. However, know how big your water tank is and figure out how much weight this adds to your rig.

My water tank is \_\_\_\_\_ gallons. *Water weighs 8.34 lbs per gallon*

\_\_\_\_\_ gallons of fresh water x 8.34 lbs = \_\_\_\_\_ lbs of additional weight.

## Places to Get Fresh Water

Perhaps a better option is to fill up closer to your destination. But where? Glad you asked! Try a few of these options:

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*Call ahead and see if they'll allow you to fill up your fresh tank. Often they'll charge anywhere from \$5-\$15, but occasionally you'll even get it for FREE!*

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*Sometimes you'll see the water faucet along the edge of a gas station. Always make sure you ask permission and make sure it's potable water.*

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*It's easy to over look this option, but keep them in mind! They often have small campgrounds, dump stations and potable water.*

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*Though not always the case, sometimes you'll get lucky and find potable water at a city park. Bonus - They usually have dumpsters for trash! Always be looking for places to dump trash when finding water.*

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*From towns to museums to national parks, visitors centers often have water source that they'll allow you to fill up a jug or two! Always ask permission first.*

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*Not all, but some states do have pretty great rest stops. Some offer water and overnight camping! Sometimes that option is better than a Walmart parking lot.*

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*Especially out west you'll find these in lots of parking lots. Usually you can only fill up jugs here, but sometimes we find them with unthreaded faucets that we can attach our water bandit to transfer water.*

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*Always read the reviews! Lots of people include where they found water when they leave a boondocking review! If they didn't, feel free to leave another review and include that information so that it helps others.*

## 2. Transport water back to your RV

Sometimes this is the simpler option due to the length of an RV or the weight of the rig. We love this option because it allows us to get to our destination and worry about water later, without the trailer in tow. You'll need a few tools to make this easy for you!

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# HOW DO YOU CONSERVE WATER?

## 1. Take a \_\_\_\_\_ shower

Turn water on to get wet. Turn water off to soap up. Turn water on to rinse off!

## 2. Get a new \_\_\_\_\_ head

Ecocamel and Oxygenics are great options for RVs!

## 3. Use \_\_\_\_\_ Wipes

We love Epic Wipes because they're huge, use essential oils, are biodegradable and they give back to the community. Because they're so big, we'll often cut one into 4 sections for the kids and Jonathan and I will cut one in half.

## 4. Use less water washing \_\_\_\_\_

We use a small wash tub instead of filling up our sink. This lets us know exactly how much water we're using to wash dishes. Trickle that water for rinsing...it takes practice, but once you get the hang of using less water, you'll be amazed at how much you can save.

## 5. Turn the water off while \_\_\_\_\_ your teeth

Sounds simple, but you may be shocked to find out how many people just let it run while brushing their teeth.

Bonus: Consider switching to a composting toilet!

# HOW DO YOU MAKE SURE YOUR WATER IS SAFE TO DRINK?

## 1. Always Use \_\_\_\_\_ Water!!!

Potable, city, or well water is safe to put in your tank as long as you're going to filter it for drinking. Stay away from non-potable sources, though.

## 2. Filter. Filter. Filter

We cannot recommend a Berkey water filter enough. We had one before we even moved into an RV. In case of an emergency, this could literally be a life saver!

## 3. Don't Buy Tons of \_\_\_\_\_ Water Bottles

It's so easy to buy a reusable water bottle there is no reason to bring 100 plastic bottles with you while camping! Get yourself a rad HydroFlask and filter your own water!

## 4. \_\_\_\_\_ Your Fresh Tank

It's a good idea to sanitize your fresh tank ever couple of months! To do this, book a full-hookup site (*water and sewer hookups*).

Simply fill up your fresh tank with \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

Then use your water pump to run it through all your lines (shower, sinks, outdoor shower, etc). This will insure your lines are clean as well as your tank!

While you're doing that, go ahead and clean out your water jugs and water bladder. Use this water to fill up your fresh tank so you're not using any extra water. Conservation is key, but so is sanitization!

# HOW LONG DOES YOUR WATER LAST?

There are so many variables here.

- How many people are using it?
- How often do you want showers?
- How much water do you drink a day?
- Do you have a composting toilet?
- How often are you making meals that require cleanup?

As a family of six, we can typically make it 3-5 days on our 40 gallons of fresh water. However, every family is different and has different needs.

To get started use this formula (*these are rough estimates*):

<b>Navy Shower</b>	<i>2 gal</i>
<b>Wash Dishes x3</b>	<i>4 gal</i>
<b>Drinking water</b>	<i>1 gal</i>
<b>Flush Toilet</b>	<i>2 gal</i>

So you can see a single person could easily use 9 gallons a day. But as we've covered, there are lots of ways to save water if you want to. Boondocking will help you figure out exactly how much you use!