

RV Hookup Supplies and Essentials

Use before leaving home and again before departing DeSoto Bluffs Campground. Check each applicable item; mark others N/A. Requirements vary for travel trailers, fifth wheels, motorhomes, and towed vehicles. Follow your RV, tow vehicle, hitch, tire, and equipment manufacturers' instructions; this checklist does not replace required maintenance or a professional inspection.

Guest: _____ Site: _____ Departure date: _____

RV / tow vehicle: _____ Checked by: _____

1. Electrical hookup supplies

Bring

- ☐ RV shore-power cord matching your RV's service rating (30 amp or 50 amp).
- ☐ RV-rated surge protector or electrical management system (EMS), matched to your RV service.
- ☐ Approved RV power adapter only if needed for the available outlet. An adapter does not increase available power; manage loads accordingly.
- ☐ RV-rated extension cord, only if required, with suitable ampacity and length. Do not use household power strips or ordinary extension cords for RV shore power.
- ☐ Weather-resistant cord storage bag; flashlight or headlamp.

Connection reminder: Inspect the pedestal, plug, and cord for damage. Switch the pedestal breaker OFF before plugging in or unplugging. Keep connections dry and off standing water. Do not connect to a damaged or suspect outlet; contact management. Never bypass grounding or EMS safety faults.

2. Water hookup supplies

Bring

- ☐ Drinking-water-safe hose, long enough to reach site connection; extension hose if needed.
- ☐ Water-pressure regulator compatible with the RV; set according to the RV manufacturer's limit.
- ☐ Inline drinking-water filter, if desired or required by your RV system.
- ☐ Spare hose washers, protective end caps, and optional right-angle hose elbow to reduce strain.
- ☐ Clean storage bag or bin reserved for potable-water equipment.
- ☐ Separate clearly labeled non-potable hose for approved sewer flushing; never use it for drinking water.

Connection reminder: Connect to the designated potable-water supply and the correct RV inlet. Turn the water on slowly and inspect for leaks. Keep potable-water equipment separate from sewer equipment. Use sewer-flush connections only as directed by the manufacturer and campground.

3. Sewer hookup supplies

Bring

- ☐ RV sewer hose in good condition, with compatible locking fittings; extension if needed.
 - ☐ Sewer inlet adapter or elbow that fits the campground connection and provides a secure seal.
 - ☐ Sewer hose support to maintain drainage and protect the hose.
 - ☐ Disposable gloves; soap and handwashing supplies.
 - ☐ Hose end caps and a dedicated closed storage bin separate from potable-water equipment.
 - ☐ RV-compatible holding-tank supplies, if recommended by your RV manufacturer.
- Use reminder: Secure both ends and check for leaks. Keep the black-water tank valve closed between dumping sessions. Dump black water first, then gray water, following your RV instructions. Close valves, cap the RV outlet, and store equipment after use. Do not discharge wastewater onto the ground or leave spills unreported.

4. Leveling and stabilization

Bring

- ☐ Wheel chocks appropriate to tire size and vehicle weight.
- ☐ Leveling blocks or ramps rated for the RV's weight; bubble level or functioning onboard leveling system.
- ☐ Jack, landing-gear, or stabilizer pads suited to the surface and load.
- ☐ Stabilizer crank or required operating tool; manual override tools specified by the manufacturer.
- ☐ Gloves and a flashlight for setup.

Setup reminder: Use firm ground and follow the manufacturer's leveling, chocking, hitching, and unhitching sequence. Chock before disconnecting a trailer. Stabilizers are not lifting jacks unless specifically rated for that purpose. Never work under an RV supported only by a jack.

5. Roadside and emergency essentials

Bring or verify

- ☐ Accurate tire-pressure gauge suitable for the RV's pressure range; compatible air compressor if carried.
- ☐ Serviceable spare tire/wheel appropriate for the RV and tow vehicle, where equipped; verify fit, pressure, and access. If no spare is provided, confirm the manufacturer's recovery plan.
- ☐ Correctly rated lifting jack and manufacturer-approved lifting points; suitable jack base and support equipment if performing an authorized wheel change.
- ☐ Correct-size lug wrench/socket and torque wrench; wheel-lock key if applicable.
- ☐ Reflective warning triangles, high-visibility vest, flashlight/headlamp, and spare batteries.
- ☐ Basic tool kit, approved spare fuses, work gloves, and equipment-specific manuals.
- ☐ Accessible fire extinguisher; functioning smoke, carbon-monoxide, and propane alarms as applicable.

- ☐ First-aid kit; emergency contact information; RV-capable roadside-assistance details.
 - ☐ Portable generator only if needed for travel elsewhere—not an essential item for a hookup stay. Generators are not permitted at DeSoto Bluffs Campground.
- Roadside reminder: If the location is unsafe, the lifting procedure is uncertain, or equipment is inadequate, use professional roadside assistance rather than attempting a tire change.

6. Complete pre-departure safety check

Perform before every travel day. Check cold tire pressure before driving. Complete the final walk-around after hitching and removing campsite equipment.

A. Tires, wheels, spare tire, and jack

- ☐ Check cold pressure on every RV and tow-vehicle tire, including inner dual tires where fitted, and the spare. Use the applicable placard/manual or a manufacturer-approved load/inflation specification—not the sidewall maximum as an automatic target.
- ☐ Inspect tread, sidewalls, valve stems, and visible wheel surfaces for cracks, cuts, bulges, damage, or leaks; review tire age and replacement guidance.
- ☐ Check wheel fasteners according to the manufacturer's torque and recheck schedule; look for missing or loose nuts.
- ☐ Confirm spare tire is serviceable, mounted securely, and accessible; verify jack, lug tools, and wheel-lock key are present.
- ☐ Confirm TPMS operation, if fitted; investigate warnings before departure.

B. Lights, brakes, vehicle systems, and load

- ☐ Test headlights, tail lights, brake lights, turn signals, hazard flashers, marker/clearance lights, and license-plate light; use a helper when possible.
- ☐ Check service brakes and parking brake. Verify trailer brake-controller connection/settings and test trailer braking at low speed in a safe area as instructed by the manufacturer.
- ☐ Confirm breakaway battery charge and system condition; perform any required test using manufacturer instructions.
- ☐ Check engine oil, coolant, brake fluid where applicable, and other specified fluids; inspect for visible leaks. Follow diesel/air-brake checks if applicable.
- ☐ Check tow-vehicle and RV battery security, terminals, and charge; investigate dashboard warnings.
- ☐ Confirm loaded RV, axles, tires, hitch, and tow vehicle remain within their applicable weight ratings; secure and distribute cargo appropriately.
- ☐ Adjust mirrors; verify rear-view camera operation if fitted.

C. Hitch connections and towed vehicles

- ☐ Inspect receiver, hitch/ball or fifth-wheel assembly, mounting hardware, and locking pins for damage and secure installation.
- ☐ Travel trailer: verify correct ball size, fully seated and latched coupler, lock/pin installed, and weight-distribution/sway equipment secured if used.

- ☐ Fifth wheel: visually verify jaws/locking mechanism and safety lock; perform the manufacturer's coupling verification procedure.
- ☐ Attach required safety chains to approved points; cross travel-trailer chains where instructed, allowing turning clearance without dragging.
- ☐ Attach breakaway cable to the specified independent tow-vehicle attachment point, not a removable ball mount or safety chain; ensure correct slack and routing.
- ☐ Connect trailer electrical plug securely; protect wiring and cables from dragging, pinching, or snagging.
- ☐ Retract and secure tongue jack, landing gear, and stabilizers according to the correct hitching sequence.
- ☐ Motorhome with towed vehicle: check tow bar/dolly, pins, safety cables, lighting, supplemental brakes, breakaway equipment, and vehicle-specific towing setup.

D. Propane, generator, and fire safety

- ☐ Check propane tank/cylinder mounting, protective cover, hoses, and visible fittings for damage or looseness. If a leak is suspected, do not depart or operate ignition sources; obtain qualified assistance.
- ☐ Turn off propane appliances and close cylinder/tank valves for travel; follow manufacturer instructions and route-specific tunnel, ferry, fueling, and other restrictions.
- ☐ Confirm smoke, carbon-monoxide, and propane alarms operate according to their test instructions; verify fire extinguisher access and service status.
- ☐ Portable generator, if carried: switch OFF, allow to cool, disconnect cords, and secure for transport according to manufacturer fuel/venting instructions. Secure approved fuel containers in an appropriate transport location.
- ☐ Check generator oil/fuel, visible leaks, exhaust condition, and maintenance status before use elsewhere. Do not operate at DeSoto Bluffs Campground.
- ☐ Where operation is allowed elsewhere, use a portable generator outdoors more than 20 feet from doors, windows, and vents, including neighboring occupied spaces; direct exhaust away. Never run it inside an RV, compartment, garage, or enclosed space. Never backfeed shore power.

E. Interior, exterior, and utility disconnects

- ☐ Secure cabinets, drawers, refrigerator doors, appliances, and loose items; stow heavy items safely.
- ☐ Secure pets for travel; seat all passengers in designated travel seating with appropriate restraints.
- ☐ Retract slides; check travel locks where fitted. Retract and secure awnings, steps, antennas, and other extendable equipment.
- ☐ Close and latch windows, roof vents, entrance doors, and storage compartments as required for travel.
- ☐ Switch pedestal breaker OFF, disconnect shore power, and stow cord, adapter, and EMS.
- ☐ Turn off site water, disconnect and drain potable-water hose, cap fittings, and stow clean equipment separately.

- ☐ If dumping, do so as permitted; close tank valves, disconnect sewer hose, secure outlet cap, clean up, and stow sewer equipment separately.
- ☐ Disconnect cable/internet accessories or other site connections; secure all utility access doors.
- ☐ Secure water-heater access panels and other exterior covers; set refrigerator and onboard systems to the approved travel configuration.
- ☐ Stow grill, chairs, rugs, tools, hoses, and other campsite belongings.
- ☐ Retract leveling equipment and remove blocks/chocks only when the RV is secured against movement and the hitching sequence permits. Confirm all equipment is stored.

F. Final walk-around and departure

- ☐ Walk completely around the RV and tow vehicle. Look underneath from a safe standing position for attached hoses, leaks, dangling cables, or forgotten gear.
 - ☐ Confirm hitch lock/pins, electrical plug, chains/cables, breakaway cable, raised jacks, and secured doors once more.
 - ☐ Check overhead and turning clearance; confirm route height, length, weight, and propane restrictions for your rig.
 - ☐ Confirm tools, jack, spare tire, documents, medicines, phone, and emergency contacts are aboard.
 - ☐ Use a spotter where needed; agree on signals and stop if the spotter is no longer visible.
 - ☐ Perform a controlled low-speed brake check in a safe area; stop for any abnormal steering, noise, warning, or braking concern.
 - ☐ After an initial safe stop, recheck connections and visually inspect tires, wheels, and cargo; follow manufacturer-specific recheck requirements.
- DO NOT DEPART with unresolved tire damage/pressure loss, brake faults, uncertain hitch engagement, propane leaks, loose equipment, or unsafe vehicle conditions. Contact a qualified technician or roadside assistance.

Final check completed by: _____ Time: _____

Unresolved issues / action taken: _____

References

NHTSA — TireWise / tire safety: <https://www.nhtsa.gov/vehicle-safety/tires>

Go RVing — Top 5 Essential RV Pre-Trip Checks: <https://www.gorving.com/tips-inspiration/expert-advice/top-5-essential-rv-pre-trip-checks>

CDC — Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Basics: <https://www.cdc.gov/carbon-monoxide/about/index.html>

Braunig Lake RV Resort — Understanding RV Resort Hookups:

<https://brauniglakervresort.com/understanding-rv-resort-hookups-water-electricity-and-sewer-explained/>