

THINGS TO DO

DUMPING RV
HOLDING TANKS:

A CHECKLIST FOR

RVerS



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DUMPING RV HOLDING TANKS:

A Checklist for RVers

This dreaded RV chore can be easy and clean if you use the right equipment. Connectors, a good fit, and a black tank sprayer system makes dumping a simple job.

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DUMPING RV HOLDING TANKS CHECKLIST

CAUTION

HEALTH RISKS:

- Sewage contains pathogens and bacteria that can be harmful if ingested or left on exposed skin for prolonged periods. Every care should be taken to minimize this contact.
- Store hoses and connectors in an enclosed, segregated place to avoid cross contamination.
- Soak tools in a solution of bleach (1/4 cup per gallon of water) for 4 hours after each dump.

BAD ODOR:

- Close all RV windows and turn off fans while at dump station.

FREQUENCY:

- Avoid dumping tanks that are not at least 2/3's full. If you have to dump, add water to tanks until they become at least 2/3 full.

WATER SOURCE:

- Never use non-potable water hose at dump stations to fill your tank as it will contaminate your system and it will require complete sanitation.

YOU'LL NEED

- Disposable Gloves
- Safety Glasses
- Rinse Hose for Black Water Flush or Portable Flushing Wand
- Bleach Wipes
- Bucket
- Bleach
- Clear Sewer Adapter
- Sewer Extension Hose (30 ft)
- Coupler (90 Bayonet Fitting or 45 Degree or Straight)
- Small Garbage Bag
- Hand Sanitizer

DUMPING RV HOLDING TANKS CHECKLIST

CHECKLIST

- Pull up to RV dump station and line up black holding tank drain valve as close to opening of dump station as possible. (Always do black tank first.)
- Unlock compartments on RV needed for dumping tanks, put on disposable gloves and get sewer hose.
- Before removing cap to holding tank drain opening, ensure both grey and black water valves are closed.
- Attach hose to dump station hole. It's best to use an elbow and a hose ring to connect sewer hose to dump station hole. (If ring or elbow is not available, insert the end of sewer hose into dump station's hole 8 to 12 inches.)
- Use hole's cover or something heavy enough to hold sewer hose in place so it doesn't pop out. (Do not use an object that is small enough to fall into hole.)
- Check sewer hose to ensure it is securely clamped to adapter.
- Remove holding tank drain cap with sewer hose positioned underneath (open end up) to catch drips. When drips stop, attach sewer hose ensuring tabs on adapter are lined up with stubs on tank drain.
- Once everything is secured, pull open black water tank valve. You will hear a rush through hose, start to slow down, and finally become a trickling sound.
- If RV has a permanent-mount black tank rinse system, connect it to RV and dump station water supply with a dedicated garden hose. (Do not use a fresh water hose for black tank rinse and do not turn on water until previous step has been completed. A portable flushing wand may also be used for this step.)
- If you're using a black tank rinse and it's connected, turn on water and let it run for 2-5 minutes to help remove solids left behind.
- Shut off water and disconnect garden hose.
- Close black water tank drain valve by pushing handle completely closed.
- If RV does not have a black tank rinse system, you can fill toilet bowl with water using internal pump and water from fresh tank. Ask a helper to flush toilet to duplicate action of black tank rinse system. This step may need to be done twice.

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- Open grey tank valve. You'll hear water flow, then slow, and stop. Close grey tank valve.
- If you want to flush and rinse tanks once more, you can do so by filling the tanks to 2/3 full of water and repeat emptying process.
- Recheck both your black and grey water tank valves are closed and then disconnect sewer hose from tank outlet on RV.
- Lift end of sewer hose (end just disconnected) to completely drain hose into dump station.
- If a non-potable water hose is available, run water through sewer hose to rinse it out.
- Remove sewer hose from dump station hole and rinse outside of hose.
- Rinse area around hole to ensure that any spillage has been cleaned up and cover dump station hole.
- Replace RV drain cap.
- Return sewer hose, etc. to storage. Connect two ends to each other to seal the contents of hose.
- Dispose of gloves into garbage bag or put them in your garbage bin in RV.
- Clean all surfaces touched when wearing gloves with bleach wipes.
- Wash or sanitize your hands just in case gloves leaked.
- Check holding tanks display panel. (If they do not read empty, this is an early sign that sensors may be gummed up. Use ice cube trick below to solve this problem.)
- Add about 2-4 gallons of water (about 3-4 full bowl flushes) to your black tank and add appropriate amount of holding tank treatment to last bowl. If you use a treatment for grey tank, do that as well.

TIPS

DISPLAY PANEL ERROR:

If your display panel for holding tanks is not reading empty when it should, dump 6-8 bags of ice cubes down toilet and into holding tank before you travel. The ice will have melted by the time you arrive at the next dump station. When you arrive at the next dump station, fill tanks with water before you dump tanks. You may have to repeat this process.