

PRACTICAL RVING TIPS

Space-saving shortcuts

1. Cover an empty paper-towel holder with contact paper (for stiffness and easy cleaning) and stuff the inside with rolled-up vegetable plastic bags. When you roll the plastic bags, start from the sealed end so the air is squeezed out as you roll. Janice L.
2. Cover empty toilet paper cardboard holders the same way and use them to hold extension cords. J.L.
3. Measure the length of your broom handle, or any other outside, long-handled utensil, and bolt two clips to the bin door so you can hang your utensils into the clips so they don't interfere with the closing mechanism or other utensils hanging on the inside of the door. A whisk broom, kept clipped in the bin next to the front step, if used regularly on the steps, keeps your rugs inside the rig a little cleaner. J.L.
4. Spring-loaded shower bar: Place inside RV shower to hang up wet towels, clothes, hangers – anything for which an extra hanging rod is needed. Lucille T.
5. The plastic banana hooks from Camping World are great. They have a stick-em base that I adhered to the bottom of our microwave which with the venting fan is mounted over the stove/oven. Joanne A.
6. We put three two-inch gold metal hooks above our RV entrance door. That's where keys immediately get hung when we enter the rig. We always know where the truck/door keys are! J.A.
7. Our catalytic heater is mounted on a kitchen cupboard cabinet door. When you open that door - the heater swings toward our livingroom chairs and sends the heat directly to us. Modification required: Nick had to rotate that door 180 degrees and mount it to open on the opposite side (switch the hinges) - so it opened "in" instead of "out." J.A.
8. "Shoe buddies", slotted fabric shoe holding strips (5 pair/strip) mounted around your bed base, are fantastic. They keep clutter off the closet floor. I have two - one at the foot of the bed and one on a side of the bed - neither show when you look into the bedroom. J.A.
9. You can put vinyl coated storage racks in any/every cupboard/closet for more shelving. There's never enough! J.A.

Storage/packing

1. Place a spring-loaded curtain rod across medicine cabinet doors to keep from opening up while going down the road. Relocate to above the cabinet when parked. L.T.
2. A mini-bungee cord wrapped around the paper towels will keep the roll from becoming a pile while underway. Pat K.
3. I use tension rods in the medicine cabinet, refrigerator, etc., to prevent "avalanches" the first time I open doors after traveling. P.K.
4. Organizing your "stuff" when you move into a different rig: To locate your goods - pack them into the same place (or as close to it as you can) from which you removed them in your old RV. The cabinetry and storage areas will not be the same in both RVs, of course, and you may discover a "perfect" shelf to set your tea kettle. However, a few days later, you may not remember WHICH perfect place you used. So, if you always stored your kettle above the kitchen sink in your old rig - find a shelf over the sink in the new RV - a natural place to look. After the excitement and frenzy of moving, you can relocate items to more comfortable areas. J.A.

Other

1. I use the blue work paper towels to do dishes and then throw them away - the paper towels, not the dishes. :-) No more smelly and stained dishcloths. Karen B.
2. Sign up for a mail forwarding service. Receiving a maildrop is a joy. Reliably receiving a maildrop is a must. J.A.
3. Make it as easy as possible. For instance: hoses. I have two 25 ft white hose. Easy to handle one at a time. I have two grey hoses 10 ft each. If I need to dump grey water I only use one if I'm close enough. When I clean out the black water hose it is much easier with a 10 ft grey hose to do the cleaning with fresh water. Patsy C.
4. I use a lot of water in the black water tank, which helps when flushing. You should only flush black water when it is full. If not, I fill it with water until I'm full. P.C.
5. One of those digital thermometers with extra sensors is valuable to track temperatures in your refrigerator and cargo hold. As you travel, the sun will hit different parts of your rig in different parking areas. In hot summertime, you can keep track of the temperature in your refrigerator to make sure food stays cold. In the wintery climates, you can keep an eye on goods in the cargo hold - making sure nothing freezes. J.A.
6. Damp-Rid (or a like-product) works well to remove moisture from cupboards and closet corners. We use it in the clammy cold wintertime in Reno, Nevada and in damp Florida and Georgia anytime. J.A.
7. Nick installed single-bulb 12-volt VDC incandescent light fixtures into the cabinets under the kitchen sink and under the bathroom sink. One light illuminates each shelf - it's wonderful to be able to see what's back there! J.A.

Driving/maintenance

1. Forget those high-tech walkie-talkies. Use a plain old whistle to direct your partner when parking the rig. One loud blast on the whistle means stop—don't ask questions—just stop. J.L.
2. Know the manufacture date of your tires as an indicator of when to change your tires; don't go by the mileage alone. Margaret S
3. Always use chocks when you stop for the night. If you are unfamiliar with the area you never know what weather event can come up and if the emergency brake will hold. M.S.
4. Always check your headlights, signal indicators and brake lights before starting out for the day. M.S.
5. Make sure you have Emergency Roadside Assistance not just towing on your insurance or have a separate ERA Service. Know what that service entails so there are no surprises. Keep that phone number in your cell phone and easily accessible on your person. M.S.
6. We use Outlook Calendar to automatically generate RV maintenance reminders like check the brakes, change the oil. M.S

Cooking/kitchen tips

1. To minimize water use I use cooking bags in my crock-pot. Most any crock-pot recipe will work just add 1 cup water to the crock-pot after you seal the bag. If there are leftovers you can store them in the same bag. M.S

2. We like the taste of outdoor grilling but not the mess of a portable grill stored in the rig so we use a George Foreman grill. To make for quicker clean up I fold up a piece of aluminum foil to foil to catch the drippings and toss when cooled. M.S.
3. Cook ahead in bulk and reheat as necessary! Judie A.
4. Corelle® dishes (find at Corning outlets or department stores) work best as they can be microwaved and don't break easy. Heavy Mexican glassware also works nicely with your house on wheels. DeAnna W
5. I re-package a lot of boxed foods in zip-lock bags to save space on pantry shelves. P. K.
6. I found that propane ovens tend to bake unevenly. To solve this, I put an inexpensive pizza stone under the racks. (Less than \$10.00 at Bed Bath and Beyond). It distributes heat more evenly - no more burned cookies! P.K.
7. Use potholders to separate your pots and pans and keep them from scratching each other when you're rolling. J.L.

Saving Money

1. Take a photo of your rig in a really pretty place and then have a postage stamp made from it. This is easily done online at www.photostamp.com for about twice the price of a regular stamp. A set of photo stamps is a really neat gift that is small and light and cheap and easy to mail. Photostamp.com will reject any copyrighted photo so make sure the photo you use is one of your own. P.K.
2. You want insurance through a company that deals with RV's not homes. You will find these in the RV magazines. I'm on my fourth one because I'm always looking for the best deal. Usually I use a different insurance for my car because it is cheaper. P.C.

Thanks to the women RVers who contributed these tips.

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