

Key Chapter Takeaways



- An RV toolkit should have specific items for RV and vehicle maintenance and repairs.
- If you have the proper items on hand, you can quickly fix many problems yourself, saving a trip to the store or repair center.
- RV tires need to be maintained during travel to help prevent roadside emergencies.
- Knowing how to properly change an RV tire is an essential skill.



Being Prepared While Traveling in Your RV



The Big Idea

The most effective way to prevent RV catastrophes is to keep up with all recommended preventative maintenance. However, an RV is a home on wheels, so you may have minor maintenance issues arise while traveling. Being prepared with the right tools will keep these small issues from becoming major problems.

In this lesson, we offer detailed videos, checklists, and recommended articles that will help you care for your RV while on the road.

Five Items to Always Have on Hand During an RV Trip

1. Extra fuses
2. Duct tape
3. Tools for overriding automatic systems (awning, stabilizers, etc.)
4. Holding tank chemicals
5. Tire pressure gauge and portable air compressor

Awesome \$5 Investments

Fuses: A variety pack of fuses will cost around \$5, and this inexpensive purchase can save you a ton of time in the long run. If you blow a fuse at the campground, you won't have to worry about tracking down a replacement in an unfamiliar or remote location.

Duct Tape: People often joke about duct tape fixing just about anything, but it's true. Always have a roll on hand for quick fixes that will serve in a pinch, and buy you time to get to an RV service center.

Being Prepared While Traveling in Your RV



| Be Prepared with Backups for Automatic Systems

Automatic systems are amazing—until they don't work. Automatic tongue jacks, stabilizers, leveling jacks, and awnings make RV life easier, but they are not fail proof. It's important to be prepared if your awning won't retract or your tongue jack won't move.

Know how to manually override any automatic system in your RV and make sure to carry the correct tools for the job. Check your owner's manual or ask your service tech for help if you can't locate the information you need.

| Pay Attention to Holding Tanks

Smelly holding tanks can disrupt a great RV trip. Take care of your tanks to stop the stink before it starts.

- Regularly empty your holding tanks, but NEVER keep your black tank valve open while camping.
- Use a black tank flush system if available.
- Add fresh water and appropriate chemicals every time you empty your tanks.
- Use plenty of water when flushing the toilet.
- Don't overlook the gray water tank. There are chemicals specifically designed to prevent gray water tank odors.
- Don't overlook the fresh water tank. Water left sitting in the tank can develop bacteria and odors. Remember to sanitize your fresh water tank with a mixture of bleach and water.

| Practice Good Tire Safety Habits

RV tires are critical to safe travels, but they are often overlooked. Here are some tips for taking care of your tires while you are traveling:

1. Measure the tire pressure on every day of travel.
2. Always measure the tire pressure while tires are cold for an accurate reading.
3. Keep a tire pressure gauge handy to frequently test pressure.
4. Invest in a portable air compressor so you can easily inflate your tires whenever necessary.