

Key Chapter Takeaways



- Successful RV packing means you have the necessities, without overloading the RV.
- Items related to the water, sewage, and electrical systems are essential.
- It's important to pack clothing for a range of weather when RVing.
- There are many styles of campground cooking, and it's important to think about how you want to prepare food when stocking an RV kitchen.



Stocking a New RV



The Big Idea

When stocking a brand new RV, many first-time owners spend a lot of money on things they never use.

Figure out your personal RVing style before blowing the budget on gadgets and decor.

In this lesson, we'll talk about some of our recommendations for stocking a new RV.

| Pay Attention to Your RV's Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR)

The difference between your unloaded vehicle weight (UVW) and your gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) is your cargo carrying capacity (CCC). So if the UVW of your new travel trailer is 6,000 pounds and the GVWR is 7,000 pounds, that means you have 1,000 pounds of cargo you can safely load into the trailer. This might seem like a lot, but when you start adding up all the grills, camp chairs, cast iron pans, bikes, and food, those numbers can add up fast.

Bottom line? Know your CCC and pay close attention to the weight of all that gear and those gadgets you are packing.

| Embrace Your Own RVing Personality

There is no right way to RV. Some people set up elaborate camp kitchens, and others order pizza delivered to their campsite. Don't impulse buy every piece of camping gear that is recommended to you. Think carefully about whether it will be a good fit with your style of RVing. If you want to set up your campsite with awning lights, ladder golf, and cornhole, go for it. But if you want to stick with two camp chairs and an outdoor rug, that's just fine. Don't waste money and storage space on someone else's version of campground bliss.

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| Take Your Time Stocking a New RV

Aside from the basic must-haves—think sewer hose, water regulator, and surge protector—don't be afraid to take your time with camper decor and modifications. The best way to figure out what you really want in your camper is to camp in it.

Keep a running wishlist on your smartphone, and you'll have a perfectly stocked camper with everything you need and nothing you don't.

| Aim to Have Dedicated RV Gear

Streamlining your packing and unpacking process is one of the best ways to improve your RV experience. It may take some time, but try to minimize the items that go in and out of your RV for each trip. Many seasoned RVers will tell you that they only pack food and clothes—everything else stays put.

| Prioritize Your Bedding

It often takes new RVers a bit of time to realize they love everything about their camping trips except for the uncomfortable factory mattress. There are so many affordable RV mattress options, and having an amazing night's sleep should be a priority. Ask around and many RVers will tell you that the golden days of RVing started once they upgraded the mattress.

| Don't Store Anything That Attracts Pests in Your RV

Although it's tempting to keep your RV completely stocked and ready to hit the road, avoid storing food and other fragrant items that may attract pests. If you do wish to keep pantry items in your RV while it's in short-term storage, make sure you use airtight containers.