



# **RV RENTAL GUIDE & TIPS**

**Happy Campers RV Rentals  
62955 Boyd Acres Road  
Bend, OR 97701  
1-800-382-2597**

Thank you for choosing Happy Campers RV Rentals, a division of Beaver Coach Sales. We truly appreciate your business and are grateful for the trust you have placed in us. We are privileged to have the opportunity to serve you by providing the conveniences of home while traveling.

We look forward to continuing our relationship with you in the future, and should you have any suggestions how we can serve you better, please do not hesitate to drop us a note or call. Our commitment to providing you the best RV experience is our primary goal.

Very truly yours,

*Ty & Jodie Kelly*

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## Overview

### RV Laws and Safety

It's imperative you understand what is required in your state or the states you may be traveling. [RVSafley.com](http://RVSafley.com) is a great tool for this.

#### Oregon Road Laws

Passengers are permitted to ride in fifth wheel if passenger can communicate with driver and an exit can be opened from both interior and exterior. Safety glass in windows required. Passengers are not permitted to ride in travel trailers. Passengers are permitted to ride in pickup camper. Overnight parking in state rest areas is permitted but with a 12 hour limit.

- **Size Limitations:** Height, 14'; Width, 8'6"; Trailer length, 45'; Motorhome length, 45'; Combined length, 65' but 60' on selected highways special permit required. Triple towing is no longer permitted.
- **Required Equipment:** Safety chain.

## Washington Road Laws

Passengers may ride in truck campers only. Overnight parking is permitted in state rest areas not to exceed eight hours.

- **Size Limitations:** Height, 14'; Width, 8'6"; Trailer length, none stated; Motorhome length, 46'; Combined length, 75'. Triple towing is not allowed.
- **Required Equipment:** Safety chain, fire extinguisher in RV, flares or reflective signs, brakes on trailers of 3,000 pounds, breakaway switch required on trailers over 3,000 pounds.

## California Road Laws

Triple towing is not allowed. Passengers may ride in fifth wheel with audible or visual device with tow vehicle and safety glass and at least one exit can be opened from the outside and the inside. Passengers can not ride in travel trailer. Passenger may ride in pickup camper provided passenger can communicate with drive and exit can be opened from both interior and exterior, or safety glass in window required. Seat belts are required.

Overnight parking in state rest areas is "as posted".

Towing travel trailers may not be allowed in snow areas. Contact the highway patrol before entering a snow area; chains may be required at any time. Trailers may be barred due to high winds, blowing sand, etc. Trailers over 20' may experience difficulty in negotiating hair pin turns on California State Highway 89.

- **Size Limitations:** Height, 14'; Width, 8'6"; Trailer length, 40'; Motorhome length, 45' but some exceptions and restrictions may apply see <http://www.dot.ca.gov>; Combined length, 65'.
- **Required Equipment:** Safety chain, breakaway switch, fire extinguisher in RV, flares or reflective signs, brakes required on trailers with gross weight over 1,500 pounds.

## Idaho Road Laws

Riding is permitted in pickup camper only. Overnight parking is "as posted" in state rest areas.

- **Size Limitations:** Height, 14'; Width, 8'6"; Trailer length, 48'; Motorhome length, 45'; Combined length, 75'. Triple towing is allowed if the total combined length does not exceed 75'.
- **Required Equipment:** Breakaway switch, brakes required on trailers over 1500 pounds unladen weight.

## RV Park Types

There are five types of places to park your RV:

**Parks:** They come in all shapes and sizes, and can accommodate most motorhomes and trailers. Not all RV parks will offer full utility hookups, and some will only offer dry camping spots.

**Campgrounds:** They offer RV parking spots, as well as space for traditional camping (tents, campfires, etc.). Not all motorhomes and trailers will fit, so you'll need to call ahead to find out what's offered and if it'll work for you.

**Resorts:** Perfect for travelers looking for an extended stay and above-average amenities. They can accommodate all RV lengths, and typically charge much more than standard parks due to their quality.

**Private Parking:** This includes parking at a friend's house, staying the night at a casino, or taking up space in a local WalMart parking lot. While it's free, you'll be without utility hookups and could get a parking ticket depending on city ordinances. Check out Boondockers Welcome to find fellow RVers from around the country offering free parking on their property.

**Boondocking:** Also known as dry camping, this type of RVing has a dedicated following. It consists of parking with no utility hookups, typically far away from civilization. The big draw is that it puts you up close and personal with nature and far away from other RVers.

## RV Park Amenities & Services

RV parks, campgrounds, and resorts offer a wide range of amenities and services, and they vary from place to place. Scoping out which utility hookups will be provided is a crucial step in choosing where to stay.

Utility hookups are crucial if you plan to cook your own meals. It will also be important to note that not all electrical hookups are the same – some parks offer 30/50 amp hookups, while others offer one or the other. If you plan to stay at a park that offers one or the other, make sure you have an electrical hookup converter.

Another thing to be on the lookout for when choosing an RV park is whether they have dump stations available. Before you head out, you should be dumping your RV tanks to ensure they're not spilling out on the road. Not all RV parks offer dump stations and some that do don't offer them in an accessible location for larger RVs. If a park doesn't offer a dump station, or it's not

accessible to your type of RV, you'll want to search the surrounding area for somewhere to stop and dump before getting back on the road.

## RV Park Etiquette

All RVers have an unspoken etiquette for how to treat one another, their RVs, and the world around them. Their community has an "all in it together" mentality that you won't find in many other travel circles. Be mindful of your noise levels, especially at night. If you're cooking, watch how the wind can blow smoke into your neighbor's spot.

Most RV parking spots are either on dirt or concrete. As most parks will need you to pull through or back in to a spot, you'll want to make sure you're following the direction given to you during the check-in process. You'll also want to follow all regulations about the proper care of your RV spot, which will vary from park to park.

The most important aspect of RVing is taking care of the environment. In camping and RVing, there's a concept called 'leave no trace behind.' Whenever visiting an RV park or campground, or boondocking, you want to make sure that you leave it as it was before you arrived.

## RV Hookups

Hookups are found at RV parks and campgrounds, and access to them will result in a higher per-site price than a standard parking site. Many parks offer full or partial hookups, allowing you to pay only for what you use. A lot of campgrounds, especially State Parks have 30-amp service. Call ahead if you absolutely need access to a specific RV hookup.

### **What are they?**

RV hookups are power supply boxes that give you the ability to use unlimited water and run items that draw a great deal of power such as televisions and air conditioners. There are three types of hookups: water, sewer, and electric.

### **Water Hookups**

Water hookups provide access to the running water needed for many of the appliances in your RV. They make it possible to flush your toilet and wash your hands in the sink without having to find a public restroom. You'll find that most parks and campgrounds offer water hookups.

If you want to take advantage of the convenience of your RV's toilet and shower, you'll want to find an RV park with access to a water hookup!

### **Sewer Hookups**

If you use water hookups then you will also want to utilize sewer hookups. They make it easy to dispose of running water from your toilet, shower and sinks by providing a sewer system for your vehicle. Your waste tank, which holds the waste from your toilet, is your black tank. Your

grey tank disposes of running water with no waste. Your black tank should never be more than 75% filled, but you won't have to worry about this when you have a sewer hookup.

Sewer hookups are crucial to the many conveniences your RV offers, and we recommend them for anyone staying at a location for a few days or more. The alternative is to not produce any sewage, or travel to and from dump stations once your tank is 75% full.

### **Electric Hookups**

Electric RV hookups power your entire vehicle's electrical system. This is what allows you to use lights, AC, heat, appliances and any indoor or outdoor outlets. Electric hookups are offered at most parks and campgrounds, although they may only be offered as either 30 or 50-amp hookups. In this case, you may need a converter.

If you have any appliances, such as televisions, or want to run the AC in the summer, you'll need electric hookups. Utilize them when possible, as they allow you to take advantage of everything your RV has to offer!

## **Happy Campers**

### **Policies**

#### **Rental Package**

All rental packages include 100 miles and 3 hours of generator usage per night. The rentals also include an extensive walk-thru with our expert staff, test drive, full tank of gas, complimentary amenities, and RV Starter Kit. *\*Insurance is not included.*

#### **Additional Mileage/Generator Power**

Mileage and generator usage are calculated at the end of your adventure. Additional mileage is 0.39¢ per mile and additional generator usage is \$3 per hour.

#### **Deposits**

The \$1200 deposit required to reserve your RV is refundable. This deposit acts as a security/damage deposit throughout your rental. Deposits are refunded within 10 days after your return to the card originally charged.

#### **Pets**

For an additional \$125 extra your pet can join you during your RV adventure. We do request that any pet odors and/or stains are removed prior to returning your rental.

*\*If evidence is found that a pet was on the inside of a rental without a pet fee applied, it will be deducted from your deposit.*

## **Towing**

Towing is permitted with pre-written approval by Happy Campers RV Rentals.

## **Parking at Beaver Coach Sales**

You may park one (1) vehicle on our lot free of charge. However, Beaver Coach Sales and Happy Campers are not responsible for any damage or theft. Our entrance gates are locked after business hours, but your vehicle will remain accessible 24/7.

## **Pick-up Hours**

Pick up occurs on the day of your reservation; appointments can be made between 12pm-3pm. Please allow 1 – 1.5 hours for questions and walk-thru of your rental.

## **Drop-off Hours**

All rentals must be dropped off by 11:00 am, with a full tank of gas, to 62955 Boyd Acres Rd. Bend, OR 97701, unless prior arrangements have been made. Failure to return your rental in this condition will result in additional fees.

# **Regulations**

Failure to comply with the following regulations will result in additional fees and/or prosecution.

1. All renters must be 25 years or older.
2. Travel to Canada is allowed. Travel to Mexico is prohibited.
3. The number of occupants should not exceed the number of seat belts equipped in the rental.
4. Insurance is required.
5. A valid Driver's License from all intended drivers is required.
6. Happy Campers is a family-friendly company and does not allow smoking/vaping of any kind in our rentals; it is strictly prohibited.
7. Happy Campers allows the towing of boats and trailers only. We do not allow towing vehicles.
8. Happy Campers does not allow roof storage or walking on the rooftops on our rental units. They are not equipped for the additional weight.
9. Do not take the RV off-road.
10. All outside access doors to outside compartments should be locked, latched or secured to prevent any lost items stored inside them.

# **Driving Tips**

Believe it or not, with an automatic transmission, power brakes, and plush captains chairs, an RV can be just as easy to drive as other vehicles.

1. When loading, don't create road-handling problems by concentrating heavy items on one side, or overhead. Items stored in the overhead cabinets, especially heavier objects, can fly out in a panic stop or collision. It is a good idea to place any bottles that may break and spill liquid inside a plastic bin.
2. Lock all doors from inside before traveling. Doors that are not locked can open while moving and cause damage to the door as well as the RV.
3. Secure the refrigerator door. Items that are not stored properly in the refrigerator, may upon opening after traveling they will fall out and possibly stain the flooring.
4. The best way to back into a tight spot is to have a person (or even 2) outside watching all the angles. Maneuver with your windows down, and instruct your helper to talk loud enough so you can clearly hear them.
5. Don't blindly pull into an unfamiliar driveway, dead end street, or parking lot that doesn't have a second exit.
6. When you pull into shopping areas, stay out near the perimeter and chose your parking spot so that you can simply pull ahead to leave. Don't go down the aisles of parked cars
7. Learn to rely on your side-mirrors. A properly adjusted mirror should give you a view of the side all the way back to the rear bumper.
8. Never rely on rear vision cameras, because they're pointed down toward the ground behind you and don't give you a broad enough picture. There are overhead obstacles to be concerned about too.
9. Approach corners with a clear picture of exactly where all other vehicles are around you.
10. Turn signals should be applied well in advance of your corner. That way, everyone around you has a clear understanding of what you're about to do.
11. Stop and check clearances if you suspect you're getting too close to an obstruction. Tying up traffic for a minute or so sure beats hitting a parked car!
12. When climbing long inclines, your RV needs to be operated within its power band. The power band is a span of engine RPMs where you have the maximum horsepower available to handle the extra load imposed when going up long inclines.
13. Downhill is where you make your engine and transmission work to hold you back. That way, you save your brakes for when you really need them.
14. If you find yourself going downhill faster than the engine and transmission can hold you back, your braking should be done in short bursts. It's far better to brake hard for a shorter distance than to ride the brakes for a long period of time.

In general, the best advice for RV driving is to take it slow and easy. It's better to be able to say, "I got there; it just took a little longer than I expected" than to not get to your destination.

## How to: Connect to RV Hookups

When dealing with running water, sewage, and electricity; do not take connecting and disconnecting your hookups lightly!

**Step 1: Connect the Water Hookup**

- Begin by unwinding your water hose and work out any kinks
- Make sure your water pump is turned off
- Connect the hose to your RV
- Once secure, connect the regulator to the water spicket
- Next, connect the hose to the regulator
- Check for leaks at either end of the hose

**Step 2: Connecting the Sewer Hookup**

- First, put on gloves
- Next, check your grey and black tank pulls to make sure they're closed
- Using the open end of the sewer hose, with the twist-on connector, attach it to your RV drain spout.
- Grab the sewer hose and run it from where it's attached to the RV to the sewer drain
- Leave the sewer tanks closed until the control panel indicates that the tanks are mostly full; check the control panel daily.

**Dumping Sewer Tanks**

- After connecting the sewer hookup, open the black tank first
- Once the contents from the black tank have emptied, open the grey tank
- When both tanks have been emptied, close both valves
- Finally, disconnect the hose from the RV

**Step 3: Determine AMP**

- Make sure the electric hookup box matches what the RV can handle
- 50-amp plug-ins have 3 flat prongs and 1 round prong.
- 30-amp plug-ins have 2 flat angled prongs and 1 round prong.
- 20-amp plug-ins are your standard house plug-in with 2 straight flat prongs and 1 round prong.

**Step 4: Cut Power to the Power Supply Box**

- Cut the power to the power supply box you wish to connect. Most campgrounds have a breaker switch inside the hookup box.

**Step 5: Connect the Electric Hookup**

- With the power turned off, plug your RV into the power supply
- After you have securely connected the plug, flip the breaker switch back to the 'On' position.

## How to: Disconnect from RV Hookups

Disconnecting is a simple process for water and electric hookups, but a bit more work for sewer hookups.

**Step 1: Disconnect the Water Hookup**

- Turn off the water supply

- Shake the hose a bit to settle any remaining water in the middle
- Disconnect the hose from the water source
- Following, disconnect the hose from the RV

#### **Step 2: Disconnect the Sewer Hookup**

- First, put on gloves
- Turn off all valves
- Holding the hose upright, disconnect the hose from your RV
- Allow remnants to flow down into the drain
- Wash out the sewer hose and use waste-fighting chemicals before storing it

#### **Step 3: Disconnect the Electric Hookup**

- Allow all appliances to cycle off before shutting off the main power
- Turn off the regulator
- Unplug the cable hooked to your RV first
- Unplug the power source

## Emergency Situations

### **Water backs up into the shower**

The holding tank for waste-water from the shower and sinks are likely full. In some states, if you are not near a dumping station you can run excess water into a large pail placed beneath the waste-water (not the sewage) outlet while at a campground. But before you leave the campground, carry the pail to an emptying facility. DO NOT pour waste-water on your campsite.

### **You hear the motor continuously cut off and on all night**

This is likely the water pump. A water pump is installed in many RV's to pressurize the water system. Turn off the switch, and make sure all faucets are turned off.

### **Flat Tire**

Call a professional with a strong back and good equipment. A professional will lift the vehicle with a jack and replace the heavy wheels.

### **The faucet water sputters out**

This is likely caused by air in the water tank or lines. Turn on the water pump and open a faucet and let it run to clear the air from the lines. Make sure you do not run the water tank empty with the pump on, this could cause air in the lines and burn out the water pump.

### **Power Failure**

If you experience an electrical power failure be sure to first unplug all devices/appliances and turn off heater, furnace, and/or water heater. Following, check all GFCI outlet buttons and reset as needed. Next, check the power switches inside your RV by switching the breakers on and off.

If you are connected via hookup and power still has not returned, check the power connections outside. Switch the hookup circuit breaker on and off. If you are not connected to a hookup, check the generator itself. Flip the generator's circuit breaker on and off. If you have difficulty locating breakers, refer to the RV manual.