

Keeping It Fresh: Tips for Care and Maintenance of Your RV's Fresh Water System

Courtesy of [Good Sam Extended Service Plan](#)

Proper care and regular maintenance of your RV's fresh water system is important not only to protect your investment, but also to safeguard your health. Whether you have a motor home, fifth wheel or travel trailer, it's something that just can't be ignored. Here are a few essential tips for maintaining a safe and trouble-free fresh water system in your rig.

- Use a separate fresh water fill hose that is designed specifically and only for drinking water. Use a different color of hose for your utility hose so you will never mix them up.
- When your fresh water hose is not in use, connect the ends of the hose together to keep the dirt, debris and insects out.
- Know your water source. Don't assume it to be safe. Run some water from the water source faucet into a glass and check for clarity and odor before filling your fresh water tank. Keep a supply of bottled water in your rig as a back up.
- Connect a water pressure regulator to the faucet end of your hose to be sure of the pressure from your water source.
- Use a water filter for your fresh water intake and change it at least once a year or sooner if you notice a change in the taste or flow of your water. (Note: Filters will remove contaminants and improve taste, but will not purify your water.)
- Empty your potable water tank when not using your RV for more than 3-4 weeks at a time.

Sanitize your fresh water system—including your fresh water fill hose—before initial use, approximately every six months when in use, and after extended periods of non-use. If you live or camp in a warm climate and the water is left in the tank for prolonged periods, you may want to sanitize the system more frequently.

Sanitizing your fresh water tank

- Drain your tank.
- Prepare a chlorine solution by mixing a quarter cup of liquid household bleach with a gallon of water. Use one gallon of solution for each 15 gallons of tank capacity.
- Turn off all the faucets and close all drain valves. Pour the solution into the fresh water tank.

- Fill the tank the remainder of the way with fresh water.
- Turn on the water pump. Open all faucets one at a time to remove air from the lines. When water begins to flow steadily, turn faucet off.
- Refill the tank with fresh water and let stand 3-6 hours.
- Drain the system by opening all faucets and the fresh water tank drain valve while flushing the system with drinking quality water.
- Continue flushing the system, allowing the water to flow for several minutes.
- Close the tank drain valve and faucets. Refill the system with drinking quality water.

Following these simple tips can prevent problems and provide you with a safe fresh water system.