



Safe RV Water from Tank to Tap: Staying healthy for every adventure

Germs can grow in all water systems, including in recreational vehicles (RVs). You can avoid these kinds of germs by making sure water coming into your RV is safe to drink, keeping your RV's water system clean, and using water from your RV safely.

Make sure water coming into your RV is safe to drink

- Before hooking up your RV to a campground or RV park water system, confirm with the manager that the water is safe to drink.
- If you are not hooking up to a water system (also called boondocking or dry camping), fill your RV water tanks with water from a safe drinking water source, such as a home tap or other treated water. Well water is not always treated, so if your tap water comes from a private well, test your water for germs at least once every year.

Keep your RV's water system clean

Follow your RV maker's instructions about:

- How often to drain your RV's water heater.
- How and when to drain, disinfect, and flush your water system, including the storage tank.

Most RV makers recommend **draining, disinfecting, and then flushing** your RV's water system at least once every year or if your RV has not been used in a few months.



If you use a water filter in your RV:

- Check the water filter's label to see what types of germs or chemicals it removes. Note that many filters designed to improve water's taste do not remove germs.
- Replace water filters regularly. Follow the instructions that came with the water filter.

Use water safely

Tap water is not sterile, meaning it might have germs in it that can make you sick. Some infections caused by water going up your nose can be fatal.

DO NOT use water straight from the RV tap to:

- Rinse sinuses. Use distilled or sterilized water, or boiled (and then cooled) tap water instead.
- Store or rinse contact lenses. Use contact lens solution instead.
- Clean wounds. Use soap and clean running water or bottled water when possible.
- Fill your CPAP machine's humidifier or other medical devices. Follow manufacturer instructions.



Find more information about safe drinking water at home and on the go, including who is more likely to get sick, at [cdc.gov/drinking-water](https://www.cdc.gov/drinking-water)

