

The RV Lingo



Guide

A

A dictionary for the most common RV terms you'll hear on the road.

Awning

A retractable roof-like structure made of canvas that provides shade.

B

Back-In Site

A campsite with a single entrance that you have to back into in order to park.

Basement

Storage area below the floor of the RV which can only be accessed from outside the rig.

Black Tank

Holds sewage until it can be dumped into septic system.

Black Water

Another name for sewage.

Boondocking

Camping without hookups to water, electric, or sewage.

Bump-Out

Another name for a slide-out.

Bunkhouse

An RV floorplan that includes bunkbeds.

C

Camp Host

The point of contact within a campground.

Camper

Another name for an RV.

Chassis

The load-bearing framework that includes the engine, transmission, drive train, axles, and wheels.

Chuckling

The rocking that happens when towing caused by an uneven road or unbalanced trailer.

Coach

Another name for an RV.

D

Diesel Puller

An RV with a diesel engine in the front of the vehicle.

Diesel Pusher

An RV with a diesel engine in the rear of the vehicle.

Dinette

A dining area, typically with booths.

Dinghy

A vehicle towed behind the RV.

Domicile

Legal residence, a term often used among full-timers.

Dry Camping

Another name for boondocking.

Dry Weight

The weight of an RV before fuel, freshwater, propane, and passengers.

Dump Station

A facility that allows legal dumping for black and gray water.

F

Fiver

Another name for a fifth wheel.

Fresh Water Tank

Holds fresh water for drinking, cooking, and bathing while not hooked up to water.

Full Hookup

A campground or RV site with hookups to water, electric, and sewage.

Full-Timer

A term used to describe those who travel and live in their RV permanently.

G

Galley

The RV kitchen.

Generator

Powered by gasoline, diesel, or propane, this electrical device generates power.

Grade

Refers to the incline of the road.

Gray Tank

Holds water connecting to the sink and shower.

Gray Water

Waste from the sinks and shower, but not the toilet.

H

Hitch Weight

A trailer's total weight that rests on the hitch of the tow vehicle.

Holding Tank

Holds both fresh and waste water. Most RVs have 3.

Home-on-Wheels

Another name for an RV.

Honey Wagon

A large truck that comes around with a liquid tank to pump out RV septic tanks.

L

Leveling Jack A tool that bears the majority of an RV's weight to level the vehicle.

M

Macerator A pump that empties the black and gray tanks into a remote sewer connection.

Moochdocking Using an area on the property or driveway of someone's home to park your RV.

Motor Coach Another name for a motorhome.

Motorhome Another name for a motorized RV.

N

Newbie

Someone who is new to the RV life.

P

Park Model

A trailer that requires facilities. These models do not have holding tanks and must be attached to water, sewage, and electrical facilities to function.

Part-Timers

RVers who strictly use their RV for vacations and short trips, typically on the weekends.

Payload

This weight rating is the maximum weight that people and cargo cannot legally exceed.

Pull Through

A campsite with an entrance and exit where no back-up is required.

R

Rig

Another name for an RV.

RV

Abbreviation for Recreational Vehicle.

S

Self-Contained

A unit that doesn't need external sewage, water, or electrical hookups.

Sewer Doughnut

A rubber ring to seal the dump hose and campsite sewer connection, often required at campgrounds and dumping stations.

Shakeout

A length of time in which you discover the hardships of the RV life. Typically happening directly after purchasing a rig.

Shore Power

Hookups for electric.

Slide-Out

A feature that expands to increase space, typically in the bedroom or living room, that slides into the main body of the RV during travel.

Snowbird

An RVer who moves to warm weather as it gets cold.

Sticks & Bricks

A term referring to a traditional home.

Stinky Slinky

Another name for a sewer hose.

T

Toad

A vehicle towed behind the RV.

Tow Rating

The maximum weight or capacity a tow vehicle can carry.

U

Underbelly

The bottom surface of an RV, usually protected with weatherproofed materials. Similar to undercarriage.

W

Weekend Warrior

RVers who strictly use their RV for vacations and short trips, typically on the weekends.

Winterize

Using non-toxic antifreeze in the waterlines for winter storage to prevent line breaks and freezing.

Workamper

A person living in an RV while working onsite at a location.