

UnCAMplicated

8 ways to keep your camping trips simple

An RV trip is a great chance to get back to basics, to keep things simple. The free-and-easy feeling of a few less things to worry about can be something to savor when the day-to-day stress piles up. With every RV we build, we aim to put you in total control, whether it's a quick weekend with the family or a few days off the grid.

Our first piece of advice would be to walk through some Starcraft RVs at your nearest dealer, but in the meantime, here are some tips for simplifying your camping trips.

1 Where to camp

County parks often fly under the radar. They may not always be in name brand locations, but they offer peace and quiet for a fraction of the cost of private campgrounds. They are great for getting back to nature and kicking back and relaxing for the weekend. Think large sites, in beautiful locations, at affordable prices.

2 When to book

Especially true for county parks, and since a surge in RVers, book your sites well in advance. The reward will be huge, and you won't have to scramble later on. Don't add stress when it's not needed.

3 How to clean

Pack a bit more simply... multi-purpose products like baking soda and white vinegar will work great for cleaning toilets, sinks and floors. Lemon juice can be used for cleaning faucets and fixtures, cutting boards, countertops and your hands. Castile soap, like Dr. Bronners, mixed with water in a spray has a variety of washing uses.

4 How to pack and store

Take care of the campgrounds we love! Reuse things like bottles, bags, clothes, etc. A milk jug or bottle can be used for water or ice. Tic Tac® containers can be used to store spices. Ziploc® bags and tinfoil can be washed and reused.

You'll want to be efficient in how you pack as well. Developing a simple inventory of what you're taking along and what fits where will help on your first few trips in a new RV. While it's true you might want all of those items and more, spare yourself the grief of over packing. Allow time in your schedule for doing laundry, keep your wardrobe simple (while still taking a couple of items appropriate for weather fluctuations) and consider renting gear or living without it.



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5 How to drive safely

Make sure your tires are inflated to the correct amount. Simple enough, right? It's not the only way to stay safe on the road, but it's one of the more important. Under-inflated tires not only cause you to burn more fuel, but they can increase the chance of failure at high speeds.

6 How to plan

Decide on a few events that everyone will participate in and set a schedule that people can plan around, maybe just a daily afternoon swim at the pool. But, be sure not to overschedule your time together. Camping is freedom at its finest.

7 How to dine

Speaking of planning, this might be the most important topic to discuss ahead of time. There are many ways to organize mealtimes, but plan in advance and stick to it... do breakfast and lunch on our own and assign each family one night's dinner. Beware, dividing up ingredients for individual meals (you bring the ketchup and I'll bring the mustard).

You'll want to be especially comfortable with the cooking and food storage capabilities of your RV. Get a good understanding of how much and how fast you can whip something up, so that you're doing more of the prep work at the home kitchen, not when you're having fun—and keeping things simple—at camp.

8 How to use your phone

While the campground is a popular place for disconnecting from the web and its constant flow of information, your smartphone can come in handy. There are tons of helpful apps out there for you to take advantage of to track weather, gas prices, dump stations and RV-specific road directions. Then, hurry, put your phone away and get back to that campfire!

Now that you have some of our favorite advice for keeping things simple on the road, check out the storied lineup of Starcraft **travel trailers** and **fifth wheels** to find the best way to get out there.

