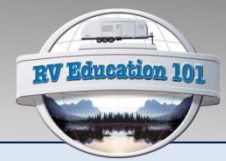


# RV Toolbox & Essential Supplies Checklist



Storage space is extremely limited on some RVs, which means space for tools and RV supplies is limited too. When that is the case you need to scale back and only keep the tools and supplies you consider absolutely essential.

If you have tools in your RV that you haven't used since putting them there, you might want to do what I did, and reorganize your RV tools and essential supplies. I like to have the right tool for the job, but I decided to be more practical and organize my storage compartment with tools and RV supplies that really are essential.

Let's take a look at what tools and supplies made the spring cleaning cut.

For starters I have a 3/8-inch ratchet and socket set. There are occasions when I need a socket set, (working on the old Jeep CJ7 we tow behind the motorhome) and what's nice about this particular set is, it includes a general-purpose screwdriver with all the various screwdriver tips commonly used in RV construction.



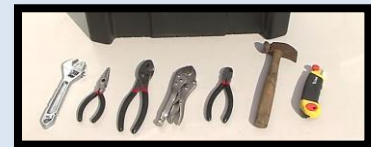
Speaking of ratchets and sockets, I keep a 1/2 -inch drive ratchet, extension and socket to remove the water heater drain plug. I like to drain the water heater tank after every trip and now I don't need to go hunting for the tools to do it.



**Tip:** If you have an Atwood water heater with a nylon drain plug the plug size is 7/8 inch. If you have a suburban water heater with an anode rod the plug size is 1 1/16 inch.



I keep an assortment of common hand tools in the RV. I have a set of standard and metric wrenches, an adjustable wrench, needle nose pliers, regular pliers, vice grips, diagonal cutters, a hammer and a utility knife.



**Tip:** When you load tools in your RV always consider the added weight, and the location. Distribute weight as evenly as possible, especially when it affects a tire position on the RV.

Something I never leave home without is a cordless drill and the battery charger: A cordless drill is good for drilling, tightening or loosening screws or nuts and bolts, and if you have the right attachment you can raise and lower stabilizer jacks.



To go with the cordless drill I keep an assortment of drill bits, nut drivers and other types of bits on hand.

Another handy tool is a battery filler. When lead acid batteries are charged water can evaporate and it needs to be replaced with distilled water. Checking and watering batteries goes a long way to extending the life of your RV batteries. This also explains the distilled water I keep in the RV.



**Note:** Whenever you work on or around lead-acid batteries keep safety in mind. Remove any jewelry and always wear gloves and safety glasses for your personal protection.



Additional tools and supplies I keep on-hand for battery maintenance are a battery post cleaning tool, some sand paper, gloves and safety glasses.

I also keep a couple of funnels in the RV. One funnel is only used to add fluids to the engine, like engine oil, and the other funnel is only used to sanitize the RV water system.



**Tip:** Sanitizing the RV water system is an easy job. Just add  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup of regular household bleach for every 15 gallons of water your fresh water tank holds to a gallon of water and pour it into the fresh water tank. Fill the tank with potable water and run it through all faucets until you smell bleach. Let it sit for 12 hours and then drain, and refill with potable water. Run the water through all faucets until you don't smell anymore bleach.



We keep a couple of flashlights inside the RV, and I keep a good small LED flashlight in my tool compartment too.

That covers my RV tool list now let's look at some essential RV supplies. I'm not talking about RV supplies like holding tank treatments and disposable gloves; I'm talking about essential tools & supplies that help keep the RV in top operating condition when you are on the road.

Let's start with a quality tire inflation gauge. You not only want an accurate tire pressure gauge, but you want one with a dual foot design, and one that is capable of checking high air pressure, like what is typically found in motorhome tires.



It's important that you know what the tire inflation is for your RV tires, and that you check the tires on a regular basis, especially when you are on the road. Store your tire inflation gauge in a protective case and away from other tools where it could get banged around. Tire pressure gauges lose accuracy when they are banged around or dropped leading to inaccurate pressure readings.



Next is a digital voltmeter, this is absolutely essential. You can use it for a quick check of the battery's state of charge, you can test 12-volt DC circuits and 12-volt fuses and you can check 120-volt AC circuits and outlets. I keep some spare fuses on hand too, just in case.



In addition to a voltmeter I keep a digital line monitor in the RV. You can use it to test for faulty wiring at the campground before plugging the RV in, and you can use it to monitor AC voltage throughout your trip. This particular model also monitors frequency when the generator is running.



The digital line monitor comes in handy, but I rely on a quality surge protector to monitor and protect the RV from electrical problems at the pedestal. There are numerous brands available with different features and capabilities. I personally use a Surge Guard product on our RV.



I keep a caulking gun and a tube of sealant on hand. Consult your RV owner's manual or RV dealer for sealants compatible with the material you are sealing. I also have a roof repair patch just in case. The patch can be used to repair a tear in the roof or in an awning.



In a separate storage container I keep some common electrical connectors, a roll of wire, electrical tape, Teflon tape, zip ties, a good wire stripper, cutter and crimping tool, a 12-volt test light, and an assortment of nuts, bolts, screws and washers. I keep a pair of safety glasses on hand for when I am using power tools or checking the batteries.



I always keep this portable lithium battery jump box and a basic road hazard kit. Portable jump boxes come in different sizes. This particular model is by NOCO and is rated at 2,000-amps. It can jump start up to an 8L gas engine and 6L diesel engine.



I keep a can of spray lubricant in the RV. It can be used for anything on the RV that needs lubrication and it helps stop any annoying squeaks and squeals on the RV. I also have shop towels and a roll of duct tape, Duct tape can always get you out of a jam.



I am sure there are other tools and supplies that could be on the list, but I get by with whatever needs to be done on the road with these tools and essential RV supplies. Happy Camping