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RV Fresh Water Tank Sanitization Checklist

Preparation

- Use unscented household bleach (5-6%)
- Calculate correct bleach amount (1/4 cup per 15 gallons)
- Pre-dilute bleach with at least 1 gallon of water
- Disconnect or bypass ALL water filters
- Turn off water heater (electric & propane) and allow to cool
- Decide whether to bypass or include water heater
- Drain existing water from tank and system (open low-point drains)

Sanitizing Process

- Add diluted bleach solution to fresh water tank
- Fill tank completely with potable water
- Turn on water pump
- Run ALL faucets (hot & cold) until bleach smell is present
- Include shower, toilet, and outdoor sprayers
- Sanitize city water inlet/check valve

- Sanitize fridge/ice maker lines (if applicable)

Soak Time

- Let system sit for 4–8 hours (recommended)
- Optional: Let sit overnight (8–12 hours)
- Optional: Drive RV to slosh water (not required if tank is full)

Flushing

- Drain entire fresh water system
- Refill tank with clean water
- Run all faucets until bleach smell is gone
- Repeat flush 1–2 times if needed
- Optional: Use baking soda rinse if odor persists

Final Steps

- Reinstall or replace water filters
- Close all drains
- Refill tank with potable water
- Confirm no chlorine taste or smell remains