



## The Featherlite Coaches Guide to Boondocking

Boondocking, or dry camping, is a great way to explore America and use your coach to the best of its capabilities. For years our clients, such as NASCAR race teams, have relied upon our coaches for their ability to dry camp safely and comfortably for extended periods of time. We have put together a small checklist of recommendations for a successful boondocking experience. As these are custom coaches, and are sometimes modified after manufacturing, some of the tips below may need to be modified to your particular coach.

1. Prior to Arrival
  - a. Top off your fuel tank
  - b. Top off your water tank
  - c. Empty your black and grey tanks
  
2. Arrival to Camping Location
  - a. Stop prior to pulling into the camping location
  - b. Check area coach will be parked in for signs of water pooling or wet soft ground. (If ground appears soft or wet try looking for a different dry area on which to park coach)
  - c. Check site space to ensure safe opening space for slides and awnings extension
  - d. Check for obstructions that may block satellite view– keep in mind that DirecTV satellites are located south of the State of Texas
  - e. Keep shade or sunlight in mind depending on ambient temperature (This will help minimize electrical use of system for HVAC)
  - f. When satisfied of the viability of your location, return to driver's seat to park coach
  
3. Inside the Coach
  - a. Park Coach in Desired Location
  - b. Check gauges on dash to verify good standing
  - c. Engage high idle
  - d. Unlock bay doors
  - e. Open toll window
  - f. Walk aisles of coach and verify nothing will interfere with slide operation

- g. Extend slides one at a time
- h. Turn off high idle
- i. Press Auto Level on Valid leveling system
- j. Once leveling system stops flashing turn off engine
- k. Turn driver's audio/video to Off
- l. Turn on HD Trav'ler satellite dish
- m. Raise or power on over the air antenna and program local channels
- n. Verify only (2) AC units are on
- o. Ensure water pump is turned on
- p. Go outside to continue checklist

#### 4. Outside

- a. Go to generator and check fluid levels
- b. Verify generator is in the Auto Mode (Will say waiting to start on the display)
- c. Extend the awnings, if desired and not windy. (Using the awnings to shade the coach will help reduce power consumption in sunny, warm environments)

#### 5. Inside

- a. Go to location of the Inverter/Generator controls
- b. Verify electrical system is set to AGS or Auto Generator Start
- c. Turn on the AquaHot Diesel only when hot water or heat is needed. (Note it uses approximately .35 Gallons Per Hour, taking 5 min to heat water for use)
- d. Coach is now ready for use – Have Fun!!

NOTE: to minimize generator run time, limit the usage of power. Turn lights and electrical items that are not needed, off.

NOTE: Set AC and Heat to a moderate temperature to save on fuel and power.

NOTE: Plan to leave or make arrangements to get fuel when coach gets to approximately ¼ tank. Running below ¼ tank increases the chance of the generator or AquaHot not receiving fuel and shutting down

## Boondocking Departure Steps

1. Outside
  - a. Check oil, coolant level, power steering level, transmission fluid level and belt tension and wear of Chassis Engine
  - b. Visual Inspection of tires
  - c. Check generator fluids (oil, coolant, water fuel separator)
  - d. Visually inspect under coach for leaks
  - e. Retract Awnings
  - f. Return inside bus.
  
2. Inside
  - a. Start engine
  - b. Check TPMS
  - c. Check gauges
  - d. Turn Off Aqua Hot
  - e. Turn Off 2 ACs
  - f. Turn off any lavatory or galley vent fans
  - g. Turn OFF climate control at dash
  - h. Verify air pressure of coach is up, then turn ON high idle
  - i. Unlock Bay Doors
  - j. Power down Trav'ler satellite or press sat stow for 3 Seconds
  - k. Power on Winegard in-motion satellite if desired and change AV input to this selection
  - l. Start generator if needed
  - m. Open toll window
  - n. Prepare interior for slide retraction
  - o. Retract slide(s)
  - p. Close toll window
  - q. Press travel on Valid leveling system
  - r. Make sure everything is secure and aisles are clear
  - s. Return to outside of coach
  
3. Outside
  - a. Verify awnings are retracted
  - b. Check to make sure all bay doors and engine doors are securely closed.
  - c. Verify satellite and antenna is stowed if equipped
  - d. Check around coach to make sure nothing is in path of bus exiting site
  - e. Return inside

#### 4. Inside

- a. Turn on dash climate control
- b. Make sure everything is secure and aisles are clear
- c. Power ON drivers audio/video
- d. Lock bay doors.
- e. Lock drawers
- f. Enter destination in GPS if needed
- g. Pull coach out of site and park in a safe flat location.
- h. Connect tow vehicle or trailer
- i. Perform a lighting check:
  - a. Turn ON headlights
  - b. Engage hazard lights
  - c. Check that all lights should be on, and tail lights should be flashing and solid.
- j. Turn off high idle
- k. Turn of hazards and lights if daytime
- l. Enjoy the Featherlite Coaches ride to your next destination