

# Does RV travel require an outdoor power source

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**Do RVs use AC or DC power?**

Understanding RV electricity is crucial for every RV owner. Your RV's electrical system powers everything from lights and fans to the refrigerator and HVAC system. Unlike homes that use only AC power, RVs utilize both AC and DC components. AC power comes from shore power connections, while DC power is supplied by your RV's batteries.

**Do you need a solar panel for your RV?**

Solar panels are ideal for RVers who enjoy off-grid camping or visiting public campgrounds without power hookups. Solar power lets you run your RV and charge batteries independently, making it perfect for boondocking. Solar panels come in various sizes and wattages; the number needed depends on your RV's size and power needs.

**What kind of power does an RV use?**

In an RV, we use 120-volt AC, 12-volt DC, and even liquid propane (LP) for the various components. It is important to understand what powers what and how much power everything uses. 120-volt power is supplied by either the shoreline cord connected to an outside source such as a campground pedestal or a generator.

**How do I set up my RV at a campground?**

One of the first and most important steps when setting up your RV at a campground is connecting to shore power. If you're new to RVing, the idea of plugging your rig into a big power source can seem a little intimidating--but with the right steps and safety checks, it's simple and essential for a comfortable camping experience.

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RVs get electricity from batteries, shore power, generators, and solar panels. Here's how to use each source and avoid running out of electricity on your trip.

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This comprehensive rv power requirements guide is designed to equip you with the knowledge and practical tips you need to confidently manage your RV's electrical system.

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You can camp with minimal power by using propane for refrigeration and heat while relying on daylight, but you still need electricity for controls, ignition, and pumps.

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