



# Fact Sheet

## Guidance for Siting Recreational Vehicles and Wastewater Disposal

Counties and cities generally allow people to live in recreational vehicles, or RVs, temporarily on properties during construction of a primary dwelling and during repairs or replacement after a natural disaster.

Wastewater generated from occupied RVs must be disposed of properly according to state and local laws.

### Is authorization required to occupy a RV as a residential dwelling on privately owned residential property?

Yes. Your local county planning, building or community development department can assist in providing information about occupying RVs on private property.

### How does House Bill 2809 affect my ability to live in my RV?

[House Bill 2809](#), which became law in 2021, allows occupancy of a RV as a residential dwelling if:

1. The RV is located in a manufactured dwelling park, mobile home park, or recreational vehicle park; and is lawfully connected to water and electrical supplies as well as a sewage disposal system.
2. The RV is on a lot or parcel with a manufactured dwelling or single-family dwelling that is uninhabitable due to damages from a natural disaster, including wildfires, earthquakes, floods or storms, until no later than the date:
  - a. The dwelling has been repaired or replaced and an occupancy permit has been issued;
  - b. The local government makes a determination that the owner of the dwelling is unreasonably delaying in completing repairs or replacing the dwelling; or
  - c. Two years after the date the dwelling first became uninhabitable.

This does not limit the authority of a state agency or local government to impose other special conditions on the placement or occupancy of a recreational vehicle.

### How can I dispose of my RV wastewater?

There are several approved methods to dispose of wastewater generated from RVs:

1. Make connection to a sanitary sewerage system if allowed.
2. Drive the RV to an authorized dump station to dispose of wastewater.
3. Contact a licensed sewage disposal service, also known as a licensed pumper, to pump your RV wastewater holding tank or tanks. Search our online database for licensed pumpers.
4. Obtain authorization from DEQ or your local county's onsite septic program to connect to a new or existing septic system. Visit our Onsite Contacts page for local contacts for each county.

RVs produce wastewater that is generally stronger than wastewater from other domestic sources. Because of this, and because of the chemicals that may be used to treat RV wastewater, connecting to a domestic onsite

septic system may cause harm to the system. Public sewer systems or dump facilities may not accept the wastewater due to the strength.

### **Can I haul my RV wastewater to a dump station in a portable or temporary holding tank?**

No. Pumping and hauling wastewater is an activity that requires a pumper license in the State of Oregon as per [Oregon Administrative Rules \(OAR\) 340-071-0600](#).

### **Can I discharge graywater to the ground surface?**

No. Graywater – including, but not limited to bath water, kitchen wastewater and laundry wastewater – is considered sewage under state rules and must be disposed of properly.

### **Who can I contact if I have more questions?**

Contact your local county planning, building or community development department for RV siting questions. Please see [our contact list](#).

### **Online resources**

- [House Bill 2809](#)
- [Onsite Septic Staff and County Agent Contact Information](#)
- [Onsite System Installer and Pumper Database](#)

### **Onsite Wastewater Program**

Visit us online at [ordeq.org/onsite-wastewater](http://ordeq.org/onsite-wastewater).

### **Alternate formats**

DEQ can provide documents in an alternate format or in a language other than English upon request. Call DEQ at 800-452-4011 or email [deqinfo@deq.oregon.gov](mailto:deqinfo@deq.oregon.gov).