

Power supply and usage in a recreational vehicle



Event RV Rental

Volume 1, Issue 1

Power in an RV is different than at home!



POWER Recreational vehicles usually have three options for power: **Battery power:** this method provides the bare essentials lights, water pump, and refrigerator computer control. Any on board 12V appliance will run until battery has been depleted. **Shore power 120V option:** This is your normal residential electric. While your camper is hooked to electric shore power you will

have the ability to run residential power outlets, air conditioning, televisions, coffee makers, toasters, microwave etc. the camper's on board power converter will run 12V appliances without depleting the battery.

Generator: Most modern motor homes will have an on board gas or propane powered generator. The generator will simulate shore power. As long as your generator has propane or gasoline you can start it up to provide power to the major appliances. You may also rent a portable generator at RSC in

Oshkosh will do the same. 3000W or more is required to run any of the following: AC, microwave, toaster, hair dryer, crock pot, or coffee maker. keep in mind you can run one of these power hungry items at one time.

Class A Motor homes:

The manufacturers of many larger motor homes will add an additional AC unit to cool the added space. To run both AC units at one time most will require a 50amp 220V power supply. Some of these units can run 1 AC on 30 amp 120V

Special points of interest:

- KNOW IF YOU WILL HAVE POWER AT THE CAMPSITE
- PLAN FOR AN ALTERNATE POWER SOURCE IF YOU DO NOT HAVE POWER AT THE SITE
- CONSERVE YOUR BATTERY POWER IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ROUGH IT
- CHECK THE POWER REQUIRED TO RUN YOUR CAMPING UNIT

APPLIANCE AMPERAGE– Why so important?

Most of us have blown a fuse or two while camping. It can be the campground breaker, the motor home breaker, or even the breaker on the generator.

This chart to the right will provide you with approximate amperages of common appliances. You can use this chart as a way to understand

what appliances may be used at the same time. Add each appliance Amperage together to get your total AMPS. We recommend staying well below the maximum of 30 AMPS. Keep in mind that the Generators will provide 30 AMPS of power. If you are plugged into a campground

service with the large end of the camper cord you will have 30 AMPS, if you use the 30/20 adapter block (this is the plug adapter you use to plug into a regular household outlet) you will have a maximum of 20 AMPS of power. A lot of household outlets are only 15AMPS.

APPLIANCE	AMPS
Curling Iron	10
Air Conditioner	22
Electric Hot Water Heater	8
Microwave	14
Coffee Pot	9
Toaster	10
Hair Dryer	10
TV	4
Electric Frying Pan	10
Iron	10
Food Processor	6
Crock Pot	10
Computer (Desktop)	4.5
Hand Vacuum	5
Floor Vacuum	10