

# Boondocking Basics

Saving Fresh Water



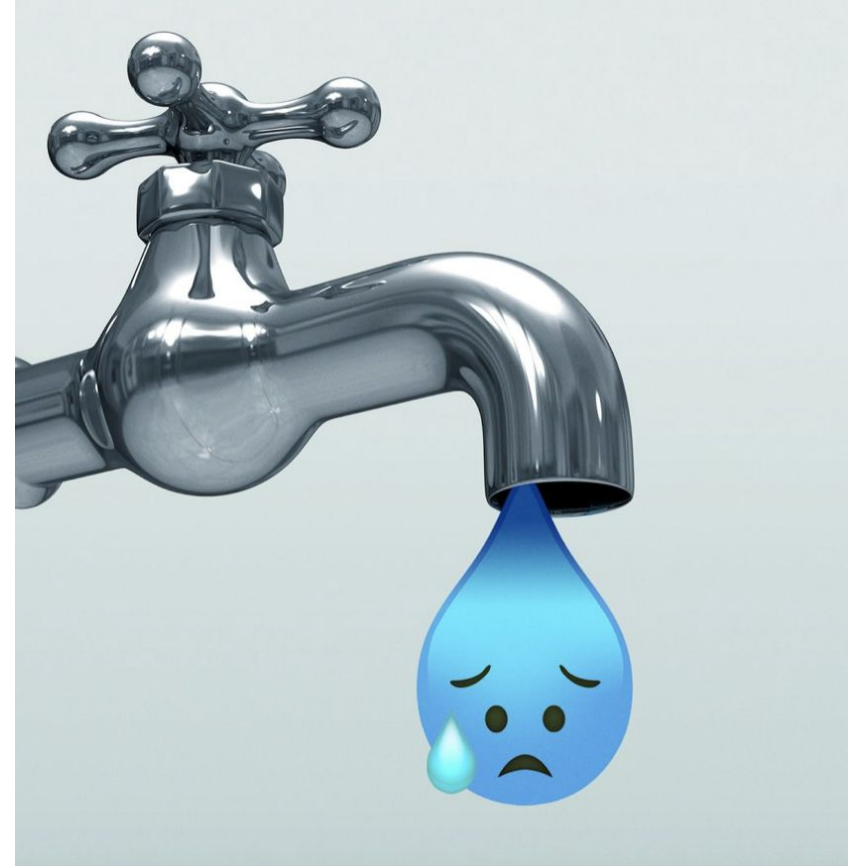
Boondockers Airstream Club  
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# Every Ounce Counts - Saving Fresh Water

Everyone wants to avoid having to pack up and leave your boondocking spot because your fresh water runs out.

Fresh water supply is not renewable. Showering, toilet flushing and dish washing can rapidly drain your water tank if you're not paying close attention to conserving this resource.

So how can you conserve this precious resource and extend your time in the wild?



# Slow The Flow – Use Less H<sub>2</sub>O

- **Change Faucet Flow:** Install faucet aerators: These use less water. Or just slow the water flow to a small amount when running water.
- **Preclean dishes:** Wipe down dishes to remove food and clear off grease and grime. Spray dishes with a dilution of water and dish soap (like dawn) to start the breakdown process.
- **Use Dish Pans:** If you have a few dishes to clean, using a dishpan full of soapy water (low suds soap) uses less water. Pour soapy water into larger black tank (or outside drain if available). Use a dishpan full of clean rinse water and dump in black or outside if available. Or save and heat up for next days soapy wash.



# Reducing Shower Water

- **Collect Water:** While water is heating, collect in a bucket and use to flush toilet.
- **Water Shut Off Valve:** This allows for shut-off without having to adjust temps and easily manage off/on at the shower head.
- **Navy Showers:** Quick rinse, turn off water, soap up, rinse. Long hot showers should be saved for campgrounds.
- **Less Showers:** By using wash clothes or pre-purchased wash towels (like Dude Wipes or Epic) you can avoid a daily shower. Use baby wipes to freshen needed areas between showers.



# Reducing Water Use

- **Spray Bottle Shampoo:** Washing and rinsing hair uses a lot of water. Mix water and shampoo into a spray bottle and use this, you'll use less water (and less shampoo). Avoid a second wash and you don't need to use conditioner. Better yet, use dry shampoo and don't wash hair as frequently.
- **Hand Washing:** Turn off water while soaping up hands or use antibacterial wipes instead.
- **Brushing Teeth:** Don't let the water run while brushing teeth.
- **Flushing:** Use a nonpotable water source (keep a gallon or two) for flushing. Reduce the amount of toilet paper going into the tank and use less water to flush. Just pay attention to how much water is needed to avoid the dreaded poo pyramid.
- **Paper Products:** Reduce the need to wash dishes and utensils by using recyclable paper products.

# Refilling Water

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- **Water Bladders:** If you will be boondocking for extensive times with no access to a refill station, invest in a food grade water bladder and a pump to refill the tank. The portable water bladder can be taken into town and refilled easier than leaving your site to fill.
- **Water Jugs:** If you don't want to have a larger bladder and pump, smaller more portable water containers (2.5-5 gallon) can bridge the time until you can refill.
- **Filling Stations:** Once on the road to your next boondocking site, locate a refilling station. Many rest stops and trucker Fuel stops have refilling stations. Campgrounds often allow a refill for a small fee if not staying overnight. Not all water sources will have a threaded spigot, so carry a "water bandit". Be prepared to use your own filling hose and use a filter.

# Resources

- **Shut off Valve:**

[https://www.amazon.com/dp/B07RLWY6QR?ref=cm\\_sw\\_r\\_mwn\\_dp\\_QFFR7B18PA24KSWTX790&language=en-US&th=1](https://www.amazon.com/dp/B07RLWY6QR?ref=cm_sw_r_mwn_dp_QFFR7B18PA24KSWTX790&language=en-US&th=1)

- **Water Bandit:**

[https://www.amazon.com/Camco-22484-Water-Bandit-Fitting/dp/B01IBUP2RQ?ref=ast\\_sto\\_dp](https://www.amazon.com/Camco-22484-Water-Bandit-Fitting/dp/B01IBUP2RQ?ref=ast_sto_dp)

- **Tank Fill Funnel:** Make sure water grade

[https://www.amazon.com/Hopkins-10710-FloTool-Multi-Task-Funnel/dp/B000EH00QY?ref=ast\\_sto\\_dp](https://www.amazon.com/Hopkins-10710-FloTool-Multi-Task-Funnel/dp/B000EH00QY?ref=ast_sto_dp)

- **Hose End Water Fill:**

[https://www.amazon.com/Camco-Shutoff-Efficiently-Eliminates-Backflow/dp/B006IX850?ref=ast\\_sto\\_dp](https://www.amazon.com/Camco-Shutoff-Efficiently-Eliminates-Backflow/dp/B006IX850?ref=ast_sto_dp)

- **Water Bladder:** <https://a.co/d/bZaoyhs>

- **Collapsible Water Jug:** <https://a.co/d/hWU0Gwf>

- **Shower Wipes:** <https://a.co/d/eohD2YJ> <https://a.co/d/02cMCHS>

# Resources

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If you have additional water saving tips, tricks and equipment to add to this guide, email Barb Derian at [stella10826@gmail.com](mailto:stella10826@gmail.com)