

RV LIFESTYLE'S 50 QUICK TIPS



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Jennifer and I have been RVing for about 7 years now - can you believe that!

We've gone through two RVs and are now situated in a new 2018 Roadtrek CS Adventurous XL, that we've decided to call MAJOR for Mike and Jen's Other Residence. Kinda catchy if you ask me.

Throughout our time on the road we've constantly been testing new gadgets, gizmos, and ideas to improve our RV Lifestyle. We've also had the great benefit of talking to lots of other RVers and seeing what innovations they've made to improve their rigs!

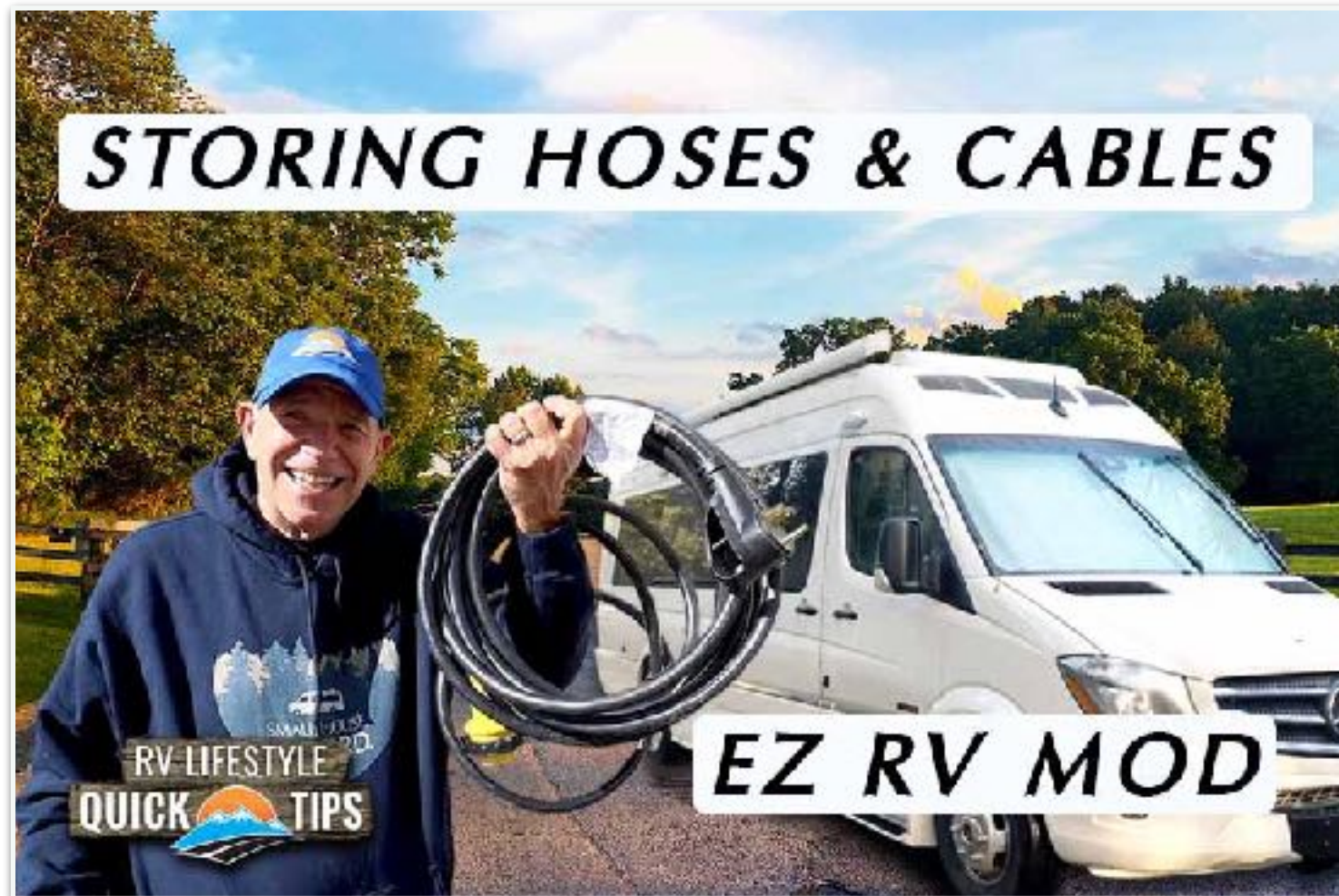
In this guide we'll show you some of the ideas that we've seen and used that you can take to improve your own RV Lifestyle.





STORAGE AND SPACE OPTIMIZATION TIPS

I'm sure I don't have to tell you, storage is a limiting factor for all things RVing. We always need to optimize the space that we have and we're constantly finding new ways to get more out of what we have in our rig.



1. RV Hose and Cable Storage

Storing all the necessities in your RV can be a big challenge. If you have a rear headboard on your RV, here's how you can save some extra space.

Grab a Rubbermaid Fast track from Home Depot or [Amazon](#) and attach it to your headboard. You can then attach brackets to the Fast track to hang hoses and cables so have easy access when you need them.

[Watch the install video here.](#)



2. Easy Access Bike Rack

There are lots of bike racks available for RVs. But most make it a pain to open the rear doors. Even racks that swing away take a lot of work.

That's when I saw this bike rack at our recent Algonquin gathering up in Canada on Andrea and Keith's RV. It mounts high up, on a door. Yeah, it's pricey. But it solves the problem!

The rack is from a company named [Fiamma](#). Keith and Andrea's RV is on the Dodge Promaster chassis. But the company also makes them for the Sprinter, too. You can learn more about the racks at <https://www.fiammausa.com/>



[3. Unclog Your Water Pump Filter](#)

Having trouble getting water to flow with your water pump? Or does the pump run all the time?

Having a dirty or clogged water filter is the main cause for most water pump issues.

[Watch the video](#) to see how to find the water filter and clean it. This should be done every 3-6 months.



[4. Easy Camping Shower](#)

We came across an inexpensive little gadget that can help with staying clean and showering on camping trips and hikes.

It's called the [Simple Shower](#) and it attaches to just about any one- or two-liter bottle to convert them into a shower.

That's right, it turns an empty water or soft drink bottle into a makeshift shower. This makes it ideal for backpacking, kayaking, camping, emergencies, cleaning pets, washing utensils, and anywhere else a steady stream flow shower can be used.

A two-liter bottle can hold pretty close to a half gallon of water and the [Simple Shower](#) attachment pours it out in a nice stream instead of all at once.



5. Shoe Bag Storage

Storage in RVs is always at a premium raising one key question: Where do we keep all the things we need?

One option is to simply pick up a shoe bag and a good ol' fashioned tension rod (like the kind for curtains) and hang the shoe bags on the tension rods in an underutilized spot in your RV.

It gives you several pockets to store small items you want handy, yet don't know where to put because they're so small. Lint brushes, spray bottles, creams, ointments, rags – the list of items that could potentially be stored using the shoe bags is endless.

You can find these shoe bags at WalMart, on [Amazon](#), or Camping World stores.



6. Accessories for the RV Bathroom

RV bathrooms don't leave a lot of room for extras.

But we've added a few little items that, to me, are great accessories.



The first is a very handy retractable 8-foot long clothesline we [found on Amazon for around \\$13](#).

We have it mounted along the back of the shower enclosure and we use it to dry towels and the like as we travel.



Alternatively you could get a [tension bar](#) and mount it in the back of your shower to hold towels.

Something else I added was a magnifying mirror we also [found on Amazon for about \\$25](#).

We drilled two small holes in the back of the shower, screwed in the base, and sealed the edges and the screw with a small bead of silicone. The mirror folds up flat against the wall when we're traveling and extends out when Jennifer needs to put on makeup.



Finally, have you ever had a bar of soap slip out of your hands while using your small, RV shower? Sometimes bending over to pick it up is not all that easy when showering in a small space.

Our easy solution – a terry cloth cotton washcloth soap holder, complete with an attached string for easy storing.

You can secure the slippery soap in the washcloth holder and you can hang it up when it is not in use, eliminating soap messes.

These also work well using public campground showers. Sometimes those showers are not the cleanest. We wear flip-flops while in the public showers, so having something to protect the soap from hitting the ground is helpful.

[Amazon sells three for \\$10](#)



[7. Stay Warm and Cool With Reflectix](#)

One of the first things every RV owner needs to improve their comfort is to cut [Reflectix](#) pieces to fit all your windows.

Buy a roll of [Reflectix](#) at your home improvement store in the insulation area. It's cheap and it looks like bubble wrap between two silver layers. It's about 1/4 inch thick.

We've discussed Reflectix in detail here before – [for keeping cool](#) and [for keeping warm](#). This stuff is equally wonderful in hot and cold weather. It'll keep the heat in and the cold out in the winter – or it will keep the cold in and the heat out in summer.

Also, it totally blocks the light if you boondock in lighted parking lots. Cut pieces slightly bigger than the window opening and you can just push it against the glass and it will stay. It'll vastly improve your air conditioner's ability to cool the interior in the summer and your furnace's ability to keep you warm in the winter. [You can order on Amazon here.](#) [Watch the video here.](#)



[8. Get Towel Grommets and Hooks](#)

This might not seem like much, but it can be so handy. You can put grommets in the towels and washcloths you use in the rig. Big brass grommets that will go on hooks – you can buy a grommet installation kit at the hardware store or [Amazon](#). In the washcloths put them in the corner and in towels put them halfway along the long edge. Now you can hang up your towels securely in a campground shower or in your camper. No clean towels ending up on filthy or wet floors.

Add a few [hooks](#) – we mostly use double hooks– around your rig. You can buy them at a home improvement store in chrome, white, brass or brushed nickel finishes. You can hang up your towels, or jacket, or clothes when drying or when using the item again soon.



[9. Keep your RV clean from dirty shoes](#)

Dealing with dirty shoes is a constant annoyance with RVing. You go in, you go back out, you come inside again and BOOM. Suddenly your clean carpet is filthy with dirt or sand.

Whether your home is big or small, it's always good to remove your shoes before going inside.

Our friend Chris shows an easy upgrade to store those dirty shoes, installing a simple bath mat cut to fit in the doorstep of her RV. [See the video here.](#)

CLEANING TIPS

A close-up photograph of a hand using a safety razor to clean a blue, curved surface. The surface is covered in thick, white, bubbly foam. The razor is held at an angle, and the hand is visible in the lower-left corner, partially covered in foam. The background is a solid, vibrant blue.



10. Save Water When You're Doing Dishes

One task we RVers all have that is no fun is doing dishes. So anything that can make that chore less time consuming is welcome.

That's why I'm happy to pass along a tip about a product that combines an ultra-durable Bounty paper towel with the grease-fighting power of Dawn dish soap.

It comes from our friend Joette, who we met on a recent camping trip.

"Go to your local drug store or grocery store and buy a roll of paper towels," she says. "Make sure that paper towel says 'Bounty' and it says 'Dawn' on it."

Joette suggests that a lone square of paper toweling is all that is needed and that is consistent with company claims that the product produces results four times cleaner than a used dishcloth.

"It just suds right up and it is great," Joette says.

The company further claims it is the thickest, strongest Bounty available on the market, with 70 percent more fibers in each sheet and cloth-like durability to stay intact while cleaning. Bounty with Dawn can even be reused—simply rinse and wring the grease out to keep tackling any mess with just one sheet.

Designed to leave virtually no streaks behind, Bounty with Dawn can be used on almost any surface. It is especially great for pots, pans, countertops, stovetops, glass, granite, stainless steel and mirrors.

It's widely available in food, grocery and mass retailers all across North America or on [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com), where you can get a roll of three for a little under \$14.



11. Clean your RV Window Screens with a Lint Roller

Whenever we're on the road for awhile one of the things that starts to get a little dirty is my RV window screens. Mostly there are seeds, those fuzzy kinds, that seemed to be everywhere in certain parts of the country, but also some small bugs.

Taking out the screens to clean them is too much when I'm traveling and having fun, but still I do not like to look out the dirty screens.

So, that is why I was so excited to read a tip listener Connie emailed to me a few weeks ago.

Connie's solution for dirty screens? A lint roller – one of those round giant tape rolls on a stick that can be rolled over clothes to get lint off.

Connie's email was short and sweet. She wrote: "Dear Mike and Jennifer, thank you so much for all you do. We enjoy your webpage and podcast very much. I have a tip for Jennifer. If your screens get dirty when you are out on a trip, try using a lint roller. They also come in handy getting dog hair off the cushions. Hope that helps someone. Connie from KY."

Well thank you, Connie, for taking the time to send me an email to share this tip with other RVers. I usually have a lint roller already with me to help control Bo's hair, but i had never thought of using one on the screens. I tried it, after reading Connie's tip, and it worked great! Thank you again.

Lint rollers can be purchased just about [anywhere](#).



FOOD TIPS

Whether it's food storage, cooking, or food cleanup, a lot of our daily lives in our RVs revolve around food.

Here are some of our favorite tools and gadgets to improve your food on the road.



[12. Get an Over the Sink Drying Rack](#)

This tip is brought to you all by Mary Jane Curry, a Personal Chef and the RV Recipes writer for our blog. As well as being useful to dry dishes, the [Over the Sink Drying Rack](#) helps extend the counter top so you have more useable space for setting food or dishes on. Mary Jane talks about several other cooking tips in the podcast interview [we did together here](#).



[13. Reusable Ice Packs](#)

If you're boondocking, you want to save your energy and that means not running your fridge 100% of the time.

That means using a cooler to keep some of your perishables but you know that when you use a cooler, traditional ice packs are bulky and warm up after half a day.

Instead [try these ice packs](#) which stay cold for 2 to 3 days!



14. Keep bags fresh with Magic Seals

It doesn't matter if it's chips, pretzels, cereal, or granola, once you open a bag the freshness starts to go away. Especially because most of the time we don't eat an entire bag once we've opened it. [Magic Seal](#) helps you reseal up your bags once you've opened them to keep them at peak freshness for longer. [See the video here.](#)



15. Get a Door-Mounted Trash Can

A trash can on the floor takes up a lot of space, no matter where you are. But if you're cooking, you need a trash can. You can get these little trash cans that hook to the inside of one of your cabinets, that way it's completely out of the way! You can get one [on Amazon here.](#)



16. Keep mosquitoes away from your food with PicnicPal

We've all been camping somewhere where it is just bugs, bugs, bugs everywhere.

If there's a potluck gathering with other RVers, keeping bugs off the picnic table can be a never-ending task.

But at a recent RV show, we found a product called [Picnic Pal](#) that solves that problem.

They are small little food protecting tents that are easy to use and fold up for storage. [See the video here.](#)



17. Great Way to Serve Food at a Campground Potluck

Those aluminum pans are great to serve food in but they can be hot, hard to handle, easily spill, and allow the food to quickly get cold.

Using a [Tray Cozy](#) helps to hold those aluminum pans so you don't burn your hands. It's a great food accessory and perfect for those RV potlucks. [See the video here.](#)



18. Grill Without the Mess

Do you hate having to scrub and scrape all the mess from your grill? Check out these handy grill mats, made with coated fiberglass and safe to cook on! There is nothing in the mat that seeps into the food. It makes grilling that much easier.

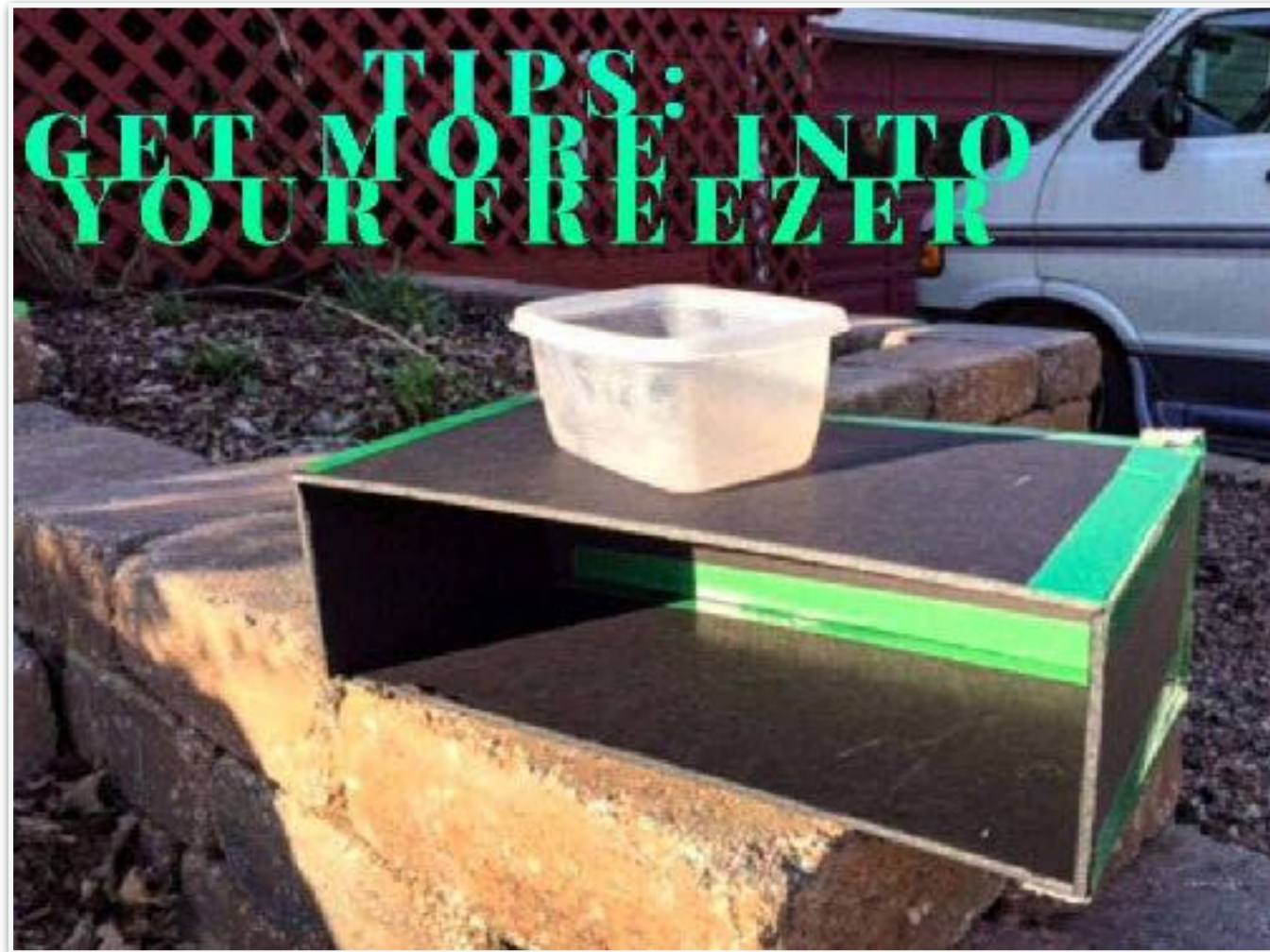
This leaves you with just the mat to clean afterwards instead of the nooks and crannies of grill top, which can get tedious.

Plus, if you're going to an area with a large bear presence this is a must because if you don't clean all that charred meat and grease off your grill, those odors are a major attraction for them. [Watch the video here.](#) [You can buy here.](#)

19. Bring Your Garden With You

A lot of us have gardens in our sticks and bricks homes and there is nothing like having fresh veggies and herbs to eat.

So why not bring a little bit of that on the road with you? [Watch the video](#) to learn how you can easily garden on the go.



20. Fit More in Your Freezer

One frustration many RVers have is not having enough room to take all the things they'd like in those small RV refrigerators. This tip comes from our friends, Tom and Patti Burkett.

A recent camping trip in the southwest part of the U.S. put the Burketts more than 100 miles from the grocery stores but they managed to fit nine meals, plus an assortment of breakfast food, into the tiny freezer.

How'd they do it?

Start by measuring the freezer compartment, and make a "mock-up" of it using foam board and duct tape. Head to the store and find disposable freezer containers that will allow you maximum use of minimum space. (You will likely have to experiment a few times to get it perfected.)

Prepare your food at home and freeze the items in the plastic freezer bags. Then pack and arrange in the mock up. Because you've already "packed" the items in the mock-up, you know everything will fit. You only have to do it once and it will get you a lot better use out of the freezer than just using trial-and-error.



21. Boondocking Coffee with a Single K-Cup French Press

I love coffee at camp. Love to start my day with a couple of cups and watch the world wake up. Love to end it with a cup around the campfire.

Over the years, we've tried three different coffee makers. Because of the constant jarring and bumps in RV travel, they all eventually broke. Plus, they were all power hogs. And as a boondocker, saving battery power is a must.

So I was delighted last January when I was introduced to a single cup coffee press that uses no muss, no fuss K-cups.

This was the solution and I've been using one ever since. [Watch the video here.](#) [Order one here.](#)

RV Quick Tip:

How to Prevent RV Refrigerator Odors

22. Prevent RV Fridge Odors

After a long trip and when your RV fridge isn't being used it can often start to smell. Stop the odors from stinking up your rig by putting an open box of baking soda inside the fridge. That will absorb all the odors and keep your fridge smelling fresh.



[23. A New Way to Start Your Campfire](#)

Tired of paper matches that you can't get lit, run out, or burn poorly? Same with the little plastic lighters filled with butane.

Well do we have a cool gadget for you. These are rechargeable plasma fire starters, they don't run out and will work in any pinch where you need some fire. [Check out the video here.](#) [Order them here.](#)



[24. Drying Out Wet Firewood](#)

At our recent [Roadtreking gathering in Kansas](#), we all wanted to gather around a big campfire.

But it had rained for several days just before we arrived and the supply of wood was soaked.

Not to worry, though, our friend Yan had a trick up his sleeve. Using some dry kindling, he started a small fire in the middle of the ring and then kept nursing it as he used his simple trick to dry out the bigger pieces of wood. [Watch the video here.](#)

TRAVELING TIPS



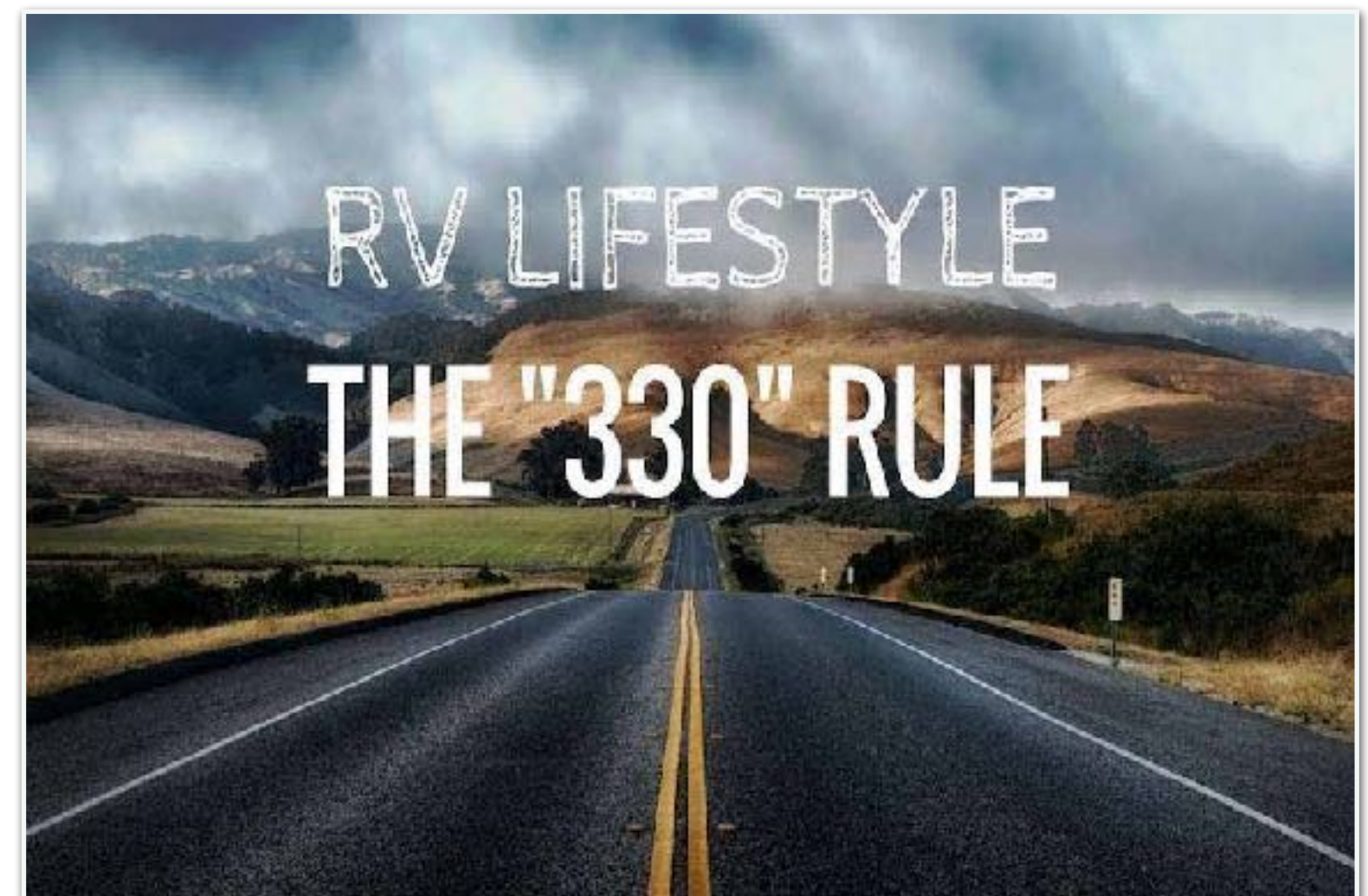


25. Park Overnight in Hotel Parking Lots

Sometimes it's inevitable that you won't make it to the destination that you were planning on and can't find a suitable boondocking spot. When this happens, especially if you're near a large interstate, what we recommend is to find a hotel to park at.

Most Class B RVs these days can handle one night without shore power BUT there's a trick because you can't just stay without asking.

Find hotels that look like they're pretty full already and then go inside and ask for a room. When they say that they'll all full, ask if you can just stay in your rig in the parking lot. Most hotel managers will grant your request, especially if your a member in the hotel's rewards programs. [Watch the video here.](#)



26. Follow the Roadtreking 330 Rule

When we're just meandering, our preferred style is simple: Stop for the day when you have either traveled 330 miles or it reaches 3:30 PM. Notice I said "preferred" style. Generally, this is always best as you are not exhausted from too much driving and when you do stop, you still have time to explore the local area.

It's a good rule to follow but it doesn't cover every trip. Sometimes things happen. You stay longer somewhere than you planned or something comes up and you have to be somewhere faster than you expected. We did a podcast talking about how we think about the 330 rule that you can [listen to here.](#)

[27. Stop and See with Roadside America](#)

Rarely do we travel long distances without finding somewhere to stop and see something interesting or bizarre, like the Oz Museum in Wamego, Kansas, the Obscure Collection of Torture Devices in Alton, IL or the Cathedral of Junk in Austin, TX.

We use the [Roadside America](#) website and app to help us find such places but often it's just a roadside sign that leads us off the highway, like the one we found for the Jello Museum in LeRoy New York. None of these surprise attractions take long to see. Usually an hour or so will do it. But you invariably discover something you didn't know before that stretches your mind as you stretch your legs.

[29. Time Your Travels Around Big City Rush Hours](#)

Trust me, you don't want to be on I-75 in Atlanta during Rush Hour. Or I-65 in Nashville or Louisville. Or the interstates through any other big city.

We have found the best days to travel are Sundays and holidays. When a big city is on our route, we always try to spend the night on the far side. That way when we start off the next morning we are going against the rush. If we're heading north, we'll stay on the north side of the city. Heading west, stay west. You get the picture.

If you're driving in mid afternoon and your current pace will have you traveling through at rush hour, stop short and find an attraction to tour, take a nap, find a dog park to exercise your pet, eat your evening meal a little earlier, anything that delays your drive through the city until after rush hour. In big cities, rush hour pretty much runs from 4 PM through 7:30 PM.

[28. Change Drivers More Than You Think You Should](#)

When traveling a long way in a day, we start out by changing drivers every two hours. Then every 90 minutes. Then, if we still have more ground to cover, every hour. We also try to find a park or rest area to do the swap so we can also walk Bo. A typical swap takes five or 10 minutes. It is amazing how even such a short break refreshes you.



30. Take Advantage of what Big Cities Offer

The flipside of our tip above is that while you do want to avoid big city traffic, big cities DO have a lot to offer. We have friends who regularly boondock in New York City. They find a spot to park on a street and overnight there.

Granted, they don't set out lawn chairs and the grill, but they love doing so and have never had an issue. We prefer finding nearby campgrounds around big cities. A great many of them offer bus tours of the nearby metropolis. They are an awesome and very efficient way to sample big city offerings.

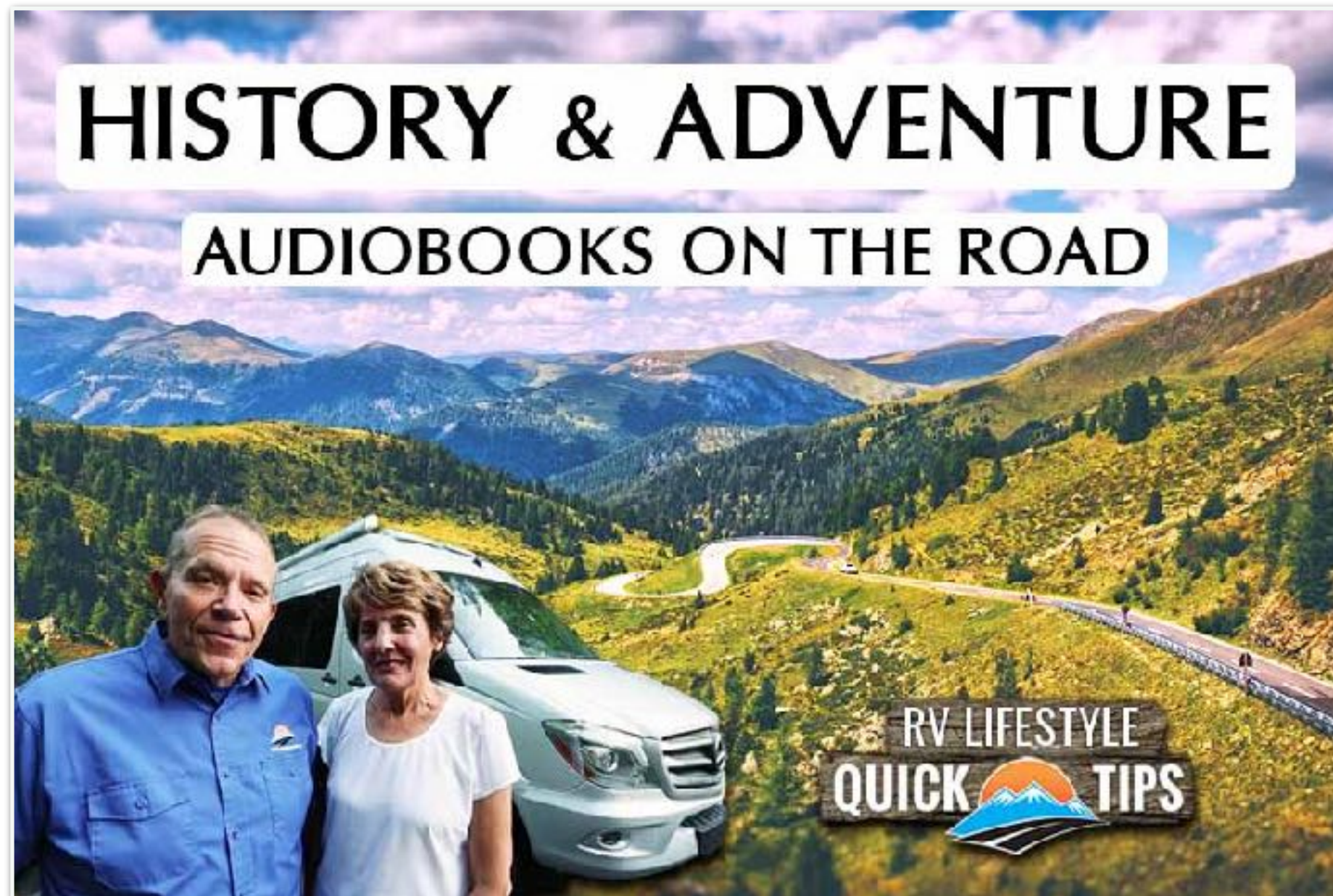
You're free to look around because someone else is driving. You can scout out places you'd like to return for a longer look and locate nearby parking spots for your RV. That's another reason we love traveling in a Class B RV, by the way. There are very few urban spots where we are unable to park, mostly parking garages. Everywhere else we have found places to park.



[31. Be Prepared For Emergencies and Bad Weather](#)

Don't travel in a bubble. Know what's happening along your route. I try to find local TV websites along the route and quickly scan them to see if roads are closed or local emergencies will affect our travel. One time, we diverted around one big city where there was some urban unrest going on. If I hadn't read the news, I wouldn't have known of what could have been a very unpleasant if not dangerous situation.

Similarly, weather can vary a lot as you travel. Any time there is a potential for an ice storm, for example, you'll want to be off the road or in a different region. In case you do get stranded, always make sure you have water, a good first aid kit, and enough food for a couple meals. That's easy to do in an RV.



[32. Pass Time on the Road with Audible](#)

Sometimes a long drive can feel stale or monotonous. We like to break up the pace with a good read...or a listen in this case.

We listen to [audiobooks when we are driving](#).

We joined [Audible](#) this past year, have been working our way through biographies like one on Winston Churchill's wife, Clementine; former Presidents Theodore Roosevelt; Harry Truman; George Washington. Our favorite so far is a book called Undaunted Courage, about the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

You can try the service out by grabbing a free audiobook from Audible here! <https://roadtreking.com/audible>



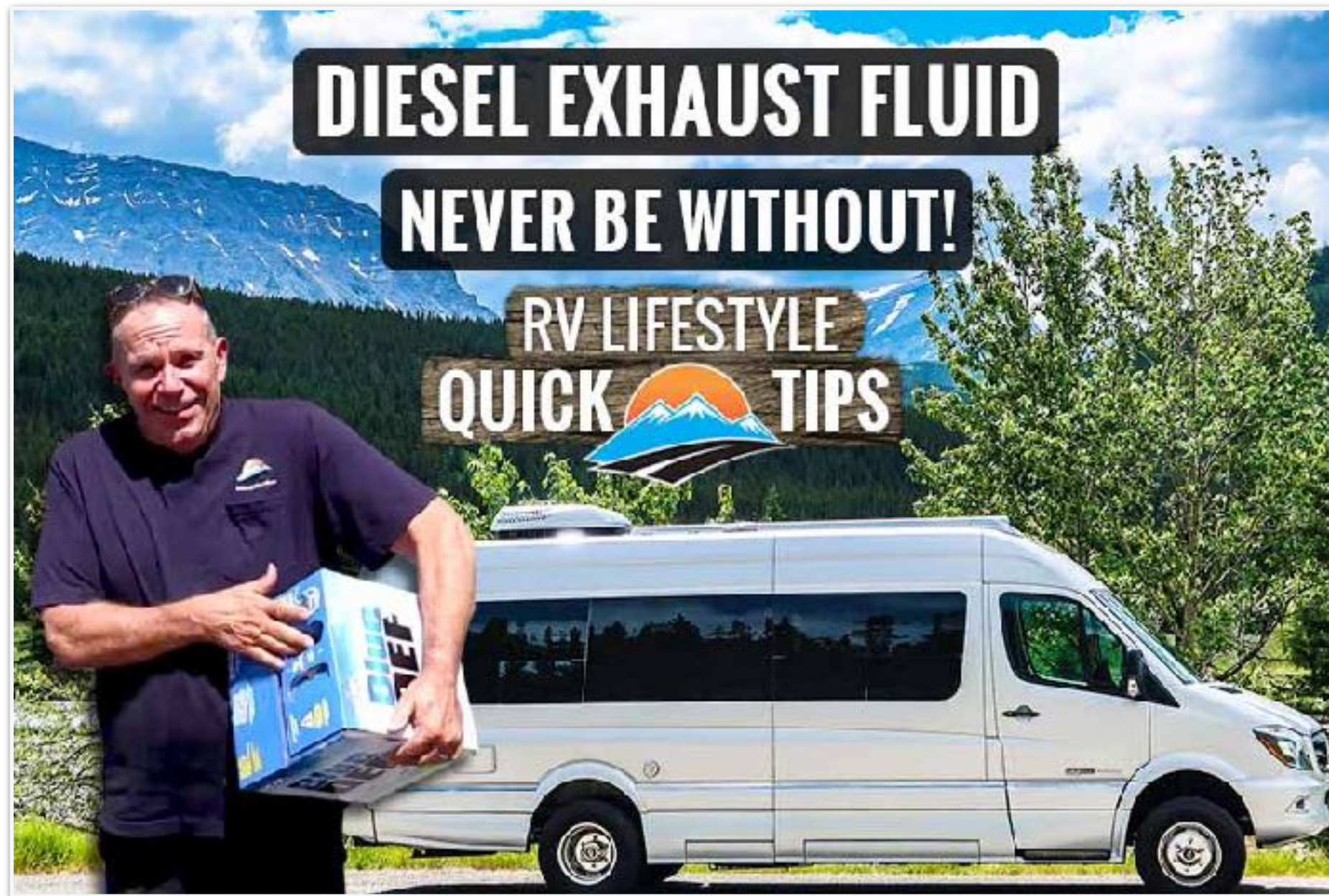
[33. An Easy Way to Level Your RV](#)

It can be a pain finding a level spot when parking your Class B RV for the night.

You stop, look at the angle front to back, side to side. Maybe walk back and use a level of a smartphone app. Then back to the front to put the RV in gear and repeat the process.

Bottomline, it's an annoying process to have to repeat every night.

Instead, install two levels, one on the dash and one on the passenger side door. When you're ready to park for the night, just move around until you're level on both of them and THAT'S IT, you're done. A very clever tip from our friend Chris. [Watch the video here.](#)



[34. Carry Extra Diesel Exhaust Fluid](#)

RVers with diesel powered motorhomes know all too well that the unwritten rule that says whenever you are far from anywhere, in the middle of nowhere, that is when your warning light pops on saying your engine is low on Diesel Exhaust Fluid.

There seems to be, at least from our experience with several diesel RVs, no good indication when you will run out. Sometimes, I get close to 10,000 miles. Other times, more like 7,000. I suspect it has to do with driving conditions. Running long and hot, climbing a lot of mountains, and driving hard over multiple days seems to drain the DEF levels faster.

Bottom line for me: I always have a spare jug with me. [Watch the video here.](#)

35. Turn Off Your GPS

The idea of turning off our GPS or satellite mapping units while RVing might sound a little crazy in a day and age where we've become ultra-dependent on them.

But our friend, Jim, says doing that is a great way to create a more enriching travel experience.

"You talk about travelling the roads less travelled..." he said in a recent tip he sent in to the podcast. "My wife and I, when we go on our trips...when we're about an hour or so from our destination, we'll take our GPS and turn it off of highways so it will lead us into our destination via the back roads."

Jim says they have found it to be fun, and that they've "seen a lot of interesting things leading up to our destinations."

Mike and I agree that it sounds like an interesting way to travel the road less travelled!

Besides, we've found that our GPS unit – no matter which model we have (and we've tried them all, including smartphone apps) – are not always accurate.



And we have really come to like paper maps. We used to collect individual paper maps from each state and province we passed through. Now we use the [Rand McNally Road Atlas book](#) that has detailed maps for every state, Canada, and Mexico.

There's nothing like holding a map in your hands to give you true perspective of where you are. Plus those paper maps are filled with interesting little tidbits of info that often lead to serendipitous discoveries along those blue highways and two-lanes that we prefer to drive.

So turn off your GPS! Explore and enjoy!



[36. Attract Hummingbirds to Your RV](#)

One of the most enjoyable things we do when we travel is feeding the birds. Hummingbirds, to be specific. We love these little wonders. They are very easy to attract to a feeder and they come very fast.

I make up a small bottle of sugar water by boiling one cup of sugar in four cups of water. Make sure to use cane sugar only. If it doesn't say cane on the label it is probably beet sugar.

They probably won't be harmed using beet sugar, but experts at the wildbirdshop.com say anecdotal evidence suggests that the birds strongly prefer cane sugar. Do not use honey, Jell-O, raw sugar, corn syrup, molasses, or brown sugar. Especially do not use artificial sweeteners. Putting hummingbirds on a diet will kill them.

We have a small feeder that attaches to the outside window of our Roadtrek, it's called the [Perky-Pet 8 oz Window Mount Hummingbird Feeder](#). It costs about \$13 on Amazon.



37. Protect Your Camping Spot with a Sign

One of the nice things about having a Class B motorhome is mobility. You don't have to tow a car behind you when you set out on your RV adventures. And when you're at a campground and you want to do some sight-seeing or head into town for some shopping, you just unplug and take off.

But what do you do about that campsite you are only temporarily vacating?

How do you prevent newly arriving campers from thinking it's available and taking your spot?

What Mike and I do is put up a sign that says "Campsite Occupied." It's a bright red sign with white lettering and we push it into the dirt at the campsite.

We got it at a campground we visited and we've since seen them in Camping World stores and at RV shows around the country.

We've also seen people string rope across the campsite, or they leave their chairs or water hose and electrical cords behind. We don't leave anything but the sign when we're away for any length of time. Water hoses and electrical cords could easily be stolen.

So far nobody has stolen our sign or tried to take our campsite. So it works!

If you'd like something a little nicer and that is personalized, you can get a nice, customized metal one [on Amazon here](#).



38. Mobile RV Repair Services

Another great tip if you're having problems with your RV at a traditional resort or campsite is using mobile RV repair services when local RV service centers can't squeeze you in for an appointment.

Our friend Jim said his RV had a water faucet that started leaking all over the place. They would've had to have waited a day or more to get into to the closest service center so they bought a faucet and got back on the road.



Later that night, while checking in at an RV resort, Jim noticed business cards for handymen willing to service RVs on site. He picked one up and made the call.

Jim said it turned out the handyman had previously worked in an RV service center and went out on his own to start his own business.

"It was just fantastic," Jim said. "The guy came out to our site...and just replaced the faucet. He had all the tools and it was all done and fine and we've never had a problem with it since."

And it's worth adding extra emphasis on part of Jim's comment – specifically, the part about the handyman having all of the tools many of us might not have with us when on the road.

So if you're having troubles, go to the main office and see if there are any local handymen who are willing to give you some help. If it's a larger place you might be in luck and it will probably be cheaper than going to a service center!



39. A Bright Idea

Whether wanting to conserve battery life when you're boondocking or read when our partner is ready for sleep, we don't always want all the lights in our RVs on. That's why we use clip-on book lights after it gets dark out. It gives you terrific light while not using any of your batteries.

There are a variety of these available at Amazon, we like to use [the ones from Mighty Bright](#).



40. Don't Get Stuck in the Mud, Sand, or Snow

Be it mud, snow, or sand, nobody likes the thought of getting the RV stuck.

Our friend Jan found a very handy little product that she always carries with her...after learning the hard way why such a product is needed. "I got stuck last year and somebody else got stuck this year," Jan said. "I had this on board."



That product was the [Mr. Emergency Snow n' Mud Track](#).

"It's this long strip of treads that you can stick up under your back wheel...and a couple of good sturdy guys or gals to push, that's about all it takes to get out," she said. It's about 28 inches, which means it isn't too big to stow.

Jan found hers at Walmart for about \$22. [It's also available at Amazon](#).

41. Keep Your House Safe While RVing

Most RVers are not full-timers and thus, when you hit the road, you have a sticks and bricks home to worry about.

Mike and I travel about half the year, often for weeks at a time, so we've learned by experience how to make sure everything will be just fine at home when we return. Here's a list of the things we do:

1) We have a home alarm system

The one we use is [SimpliSafe](#). It's a do-it-yourself system. You buy the various sensors, attach them to the walls and it's done. There are no holes to drill and the system is all wireless. It is extremely reliable and for \$14.95 a month, we have 24/7 monitoring with it. Mike installed the system himself and we couldn't be happier. We have an app that lets us control the whole system from wherever we are.

We even have a camera that we can access from anywhere on our smartphone that gives us a live video and audio feed of our home.

There are lots of alarm systems you can get. We chose [SimpliSafe](#). You may choose another. No problem. Just get one! We highly recommend you have an alarm system and monitoring. You can even get a discount on your home insurance policy for having 24/7 security monitoring.



2) Stop mail delivery

You can do it online or stop by the post office and get a supply of their yellow hold mail cards. They need three days' notice but we fill out ours with the date we're going to be away and they hold it until our return. On the day we return, they deliver it to our door. You can also do it online, via USPS.com.

3) Alert neighbors or a friend that you will be gone

We have friends who periodically stop by to check the house. The friend waters my plants, makes sure everything is OK inside and does a check of the property. We deactivate the alarm by our app for the time they visit and then remotely reactivate it after they leave.

4) Have the lawn cut

We use a lawn service and they cut our lawn weekly. In the winter we use a snow removal company. Nothing indicates a home is empty more than unkempt landscaping or snow covered driveways.

5) There are lots of other things you can do

Some experts recommend unplugging TV sets, major appliances, turning off water and that sort of stuff. We have an automatic whole house generator so we don't worry about power interruptions but in cold climates you want to make sure your furnace is always working so if travel is going to take you away a lot in the winter, the idea of an automatic generator may be worth the investment.

These last few tips come directly from our friends Roger and Lynn Brucker! Thank you both so much for the articles you write.



[42. De-Fog Your Windows with a Window Sponge](#)

When you sleep in a vehicle it is very easy to fog the windows. Using Reflectix cuts down on window moisture dramatically but you'll still get it anywhere you don't have Reflectix up. We found a sponge covered in fake chamois made expressly for wiping the inside of windows. It does a great job of drying them without dribbling water all over the dash. You can find similar products at auto parts stores or on [Amazon here](#).



[43. Keep Wet Clothes Off Your Wood with a Daisy Chain & S-Biners](#)

We used to have a major problem when we came back to our RV after being in the rain. We'd return with wet raincoats and not want to hang them where they drip all over the wood or upholstery.

We stumbled across this thing at an Eddie Bauer store, but it took some hunting to figure out what they were called – [Nite Ize GearLine Organization System](#). Now when we come back we can just hang this up and clip in our coats. It's available in 2 and 4 foot lengths. We have the 4 foot one. You can [find them on Amazon](#).



44. Winter Running Water

Worrying about your pipes freezing during the winter is no fun at all. For winter travel we are winterized with no water in the fresh water tank, but we always carry a fresh water supply in separate bottles.

We have a 3-liter plastic bottle we bought full of drinking water at a truck stop. When it's empty, we refill it from our tap at home. We store it in the bottom of the hanging wardrobe where it shares space with a 1,500 watt small electric heater and a Bissell Pet Hair Eraser.

The second water bottle has a flat shape and holds 1.5 gallons. It fills from the top and has a spigot at a bottom corner. We have broken three of these flat bottles in the past, so we now secure it to the kitchen wall with two eye screws and a bungee cord. The bottom rests on two pieces of thin foam. Normally the spigot hangs into the aisle, but the bottle can be swiveled to empty into the kitchen sink (lined with RV dishpan) when winter boondocking. The flat bottle is sold by Walmart or [on Amazon](#).



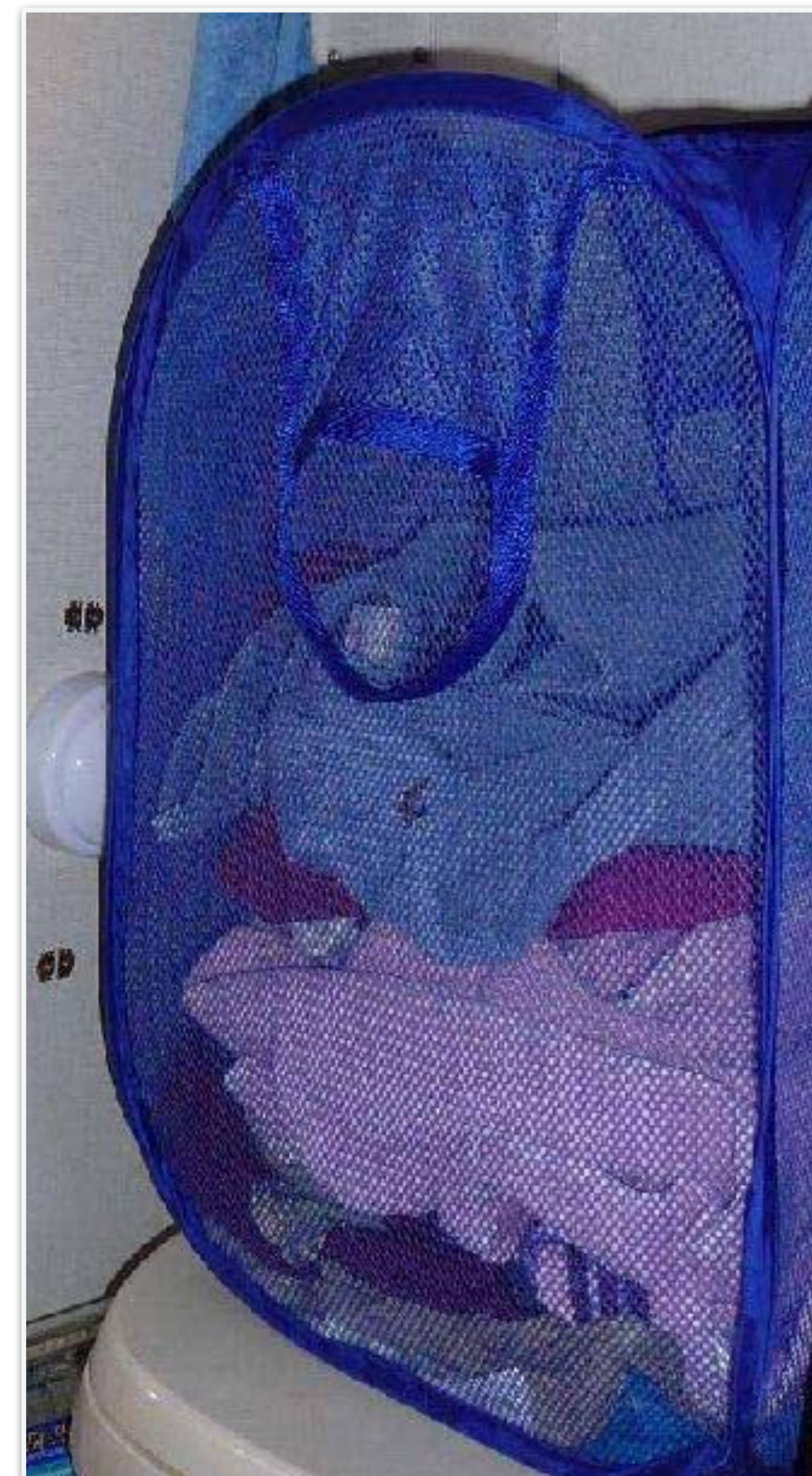
45. The Last Paper Towel Holder

Between camping stores and Bed, Bath & Beyond, you can find umpteen kinds of holders for rolls of paper towels. We had bad luck with all we tried– they took up too much counter or cabinet space, they allowed towels to unroll in a heap on the floor, or they leaped into the aisle on sudden stops.

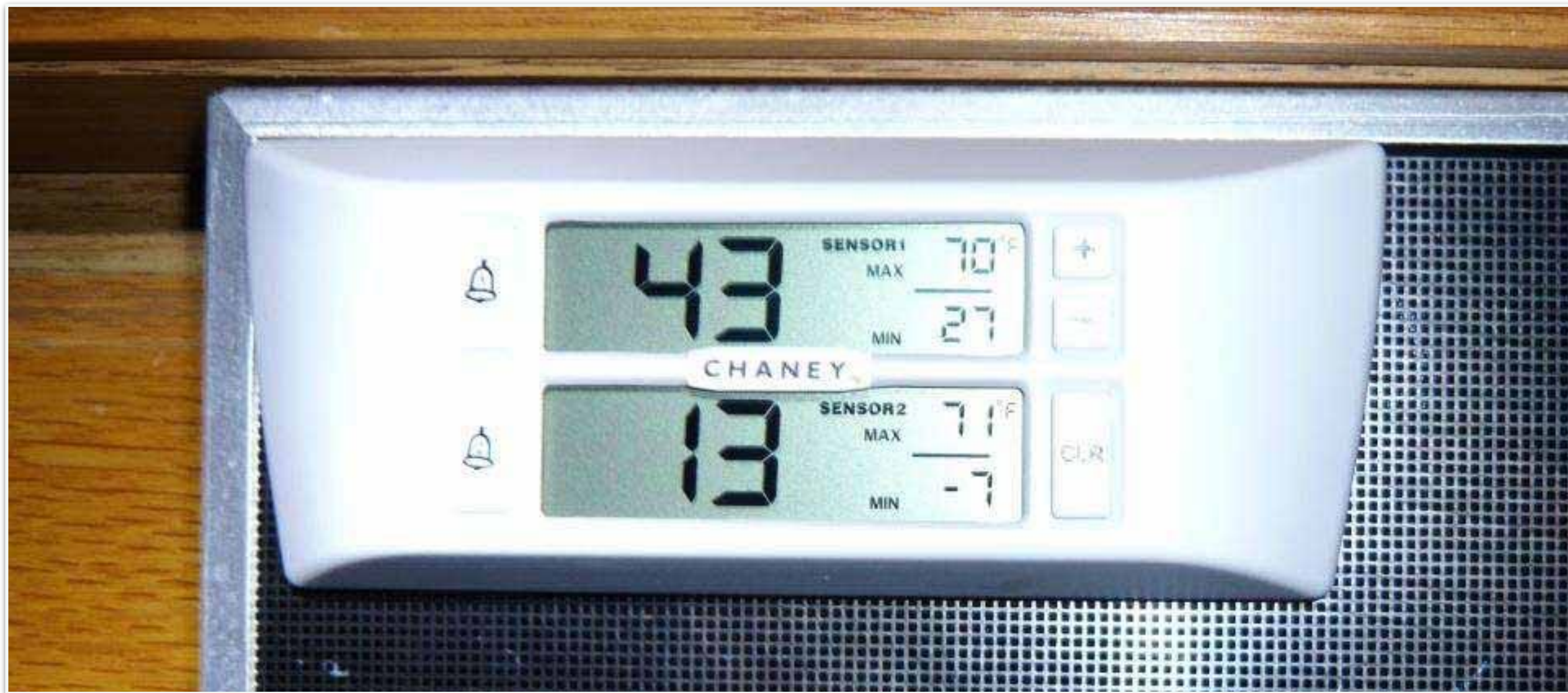
Our last towel holder is the cheapest and by far the best. We mounted two screw-eyes on the dish cabinet door. We tied an overhand knot in a bungee cord to shorten it. We threaded the bungee cord through the core of the roll and hooked the bungee into the screw-eyes. Bungee tension holds the full roll or partial roll firmly against the door under all road conditions.

46. Folding Laundry Hamper

Walmart sells a collapsible laundry hamper or basket. Ours folds up to 1" thick x 9" in diameter and stores atop the towels in the compartment above the toilet. When we travel and have accumulated dirty clothes, it rides on top of the toilet.



When we stop for the night, the front passenger seat is swiveled to face the back and the laundry hamper is put into the foot well. It is out of sight completely, but still easy to use. It is one of the very few items we relocate when camped vs. traveling. You can get [one on Amazon as well.](#)



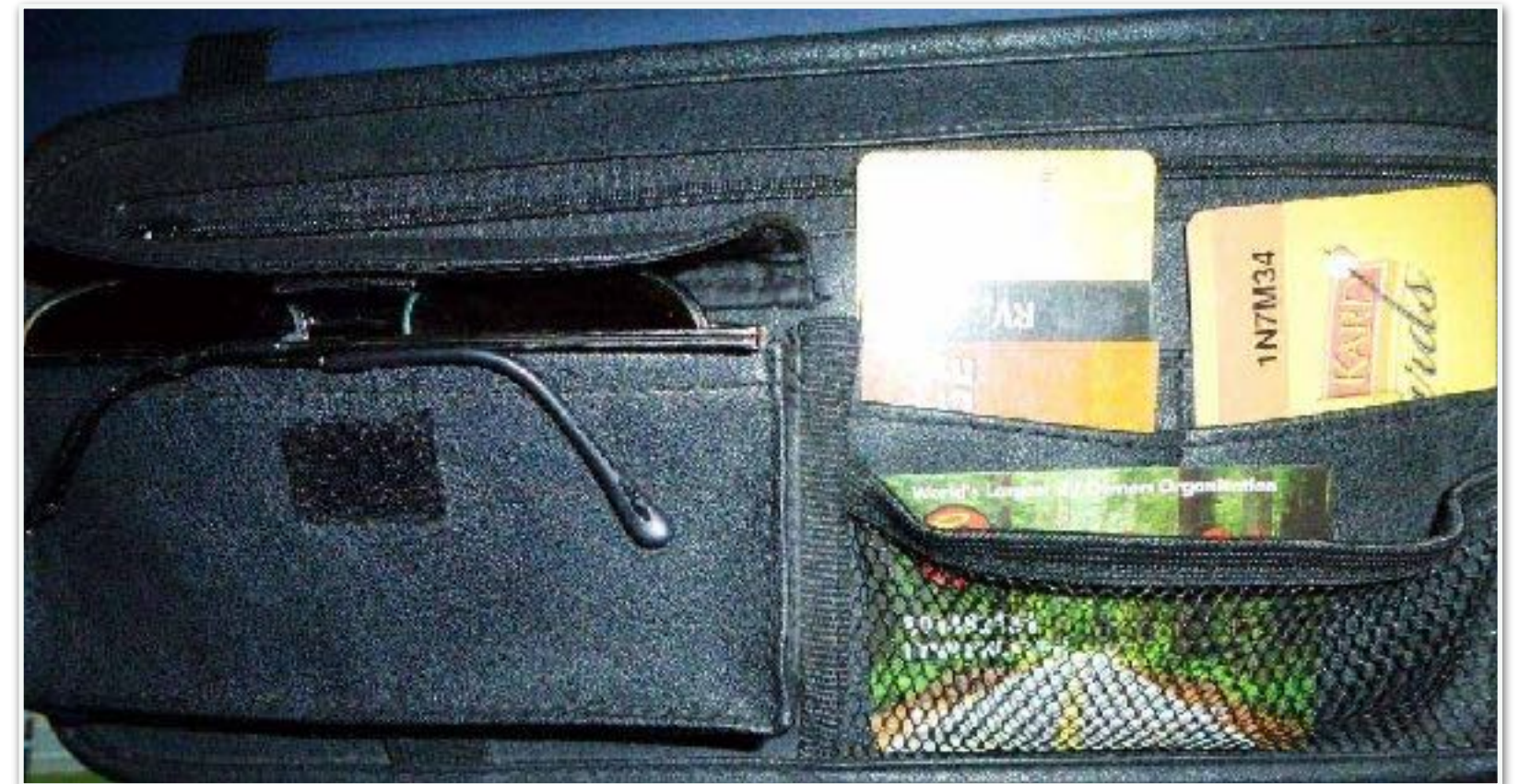
[47. Check on Your Fridge With a Remote Thermometer](#)

Amazon sells a wireless thermometer specifically for freezers and refrigerators. One sending unit goes in the freezer (must use lithium batteries) compartment and the other remote sending unit is placed in the refrigerator compartment. Ziploc bags protect the sensors against moisture. Both use two AA batteries in the sensors and two AAA in the base unit. The display is magnetic and we have ours stuck to the vent over the stove. At a glance we can see whether the freezer and fridge are in the proper cold ranges. If the temperature starts up on the freezer you know you forgot to relight the fridge! Or forgot to change modes. You can set an alarm to indicate abnormal temperature, such as caused by the fridge door not fully closed. The model we have is [from Amazon](#).



[48. A Wide Angle Mirror to Cover Your Blind Spots](#)

We bought a wide angle interior mirror that clips onto our interior rear view mirror. It gives you a view of everything back of the driver including an out-the-window view of the right hind quarter blind spot. We gave one to a friend who liked it in his Roadtrek so well, he ordered one for his regular driver car. A digital clock is above it.



[49. A Sun Visor Cover for Storage](#)

These windshield sun visor covers provide a handy storage area for “while driving” accessories. We bought two [from Amazon](#). On the passenger side the visor add-on holds CDs, and on the driver's side is a compartment for glasses, and pockets for various cards. We keep the loose insurance card, Good Sam, Flying J/Pilot, FMCA, KOA cards, etc in the pockets. It also stores the grocery savings cards. When traveling we encounter many different grocery chains that all need a special frequent buyer card to get the good prices. There are many styles of visor storage pockets are available, so find one or two that suit your needs.



[50. Shower Squeegee](#)

When we use the aisle shower in our rig we remove the floor covering — in our case the interlocking foam flooring with a dark oak pattern — revealing the floor drain. After showering we use a shower wall squeegee to scrape the excess water to the floor drain, so the floor dries almost instantly. [You can get one off Amazon.](#)