

# RV Parks – Large On-site Sewage Systems Best Management Practices (BMPs)



RV parks and campgrounds can have wastewater strengths greater than typical residential wastewater due to odor-control chemicals in holding tanks and low water usage typical of RVs and campgrounds. The amount of biochemical oxygen demand (BOD<sub>5</sub>), total suspended solids (TSS), and total nitrogen are often in higher concentrations in RV and campground waste. The increased waste strength can cause premature failure of the drainfield and groundwater contamination.

Use these best management practices (BMPs) to reduce the strength of your wastewater.

- Don't sell holding tank treatments, stabilizers, additive and deodorizers containing any of the following chemicals:

Formaldehyde (Formalin)	Para-dichlorobenzene	1,1,1-trichloroethane (TCA)
Bronopol	Benzene	Trichloroethylene (TCE)
Dowicil	Tolene	Perchlorethylene (PCE)
Benzaldehyde	Xylene	Heavy Metals
Glutaraldehyde	Ethylene glycol	
Paraformaldehyde	Methylene chloride	

These chemicals harm the good bacteria in your septic tank. This can reduce the level of treatment in your septic tank and allow solids to transfer to your drainfield. Solids in your drainfield will reduce the life of your drainfield and may result in groundwater contamination.

- Encourage RV owners to not use any chemicals in their holding tanks. Odors from holding tanks can be reduced by emptying the holding tanks every day, ensuring the ventilation system is functional, and by flushing the holding tank out to remove solids each time the tank is dumped.
- Post "No RV Chemical Dumping" signs at the RV dump station.
- Educate your visitors. Provide information about "No RV Chemical Dumping" on your website. Discuss this when you accept reservations, and during check-in.
- Encourage the use of air fresheners in RV bathrooms to eliminate persistent odors.
- Encourage owners to dump their holding tanks at facilities connected to a municipal wastewater treatment plant prior to entering your park.
- Encourage the use of your facility's restrooms and showers, instead of their RV holding tanks. Make restrooms inviting by making sure they are well lit and clean.

For more information visit our website at [www.doh.wa.gov/loss](http://www.doh.wa.gov/loss) or contact the LOSS Program at 360-236-3330 or [wastewatmgmt@doh.wa.gov](mailto:wastewatmgmt@doh.wa.gov).

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