

RV Fire Safety Checklist

Fire Safety Equipment

- ☐ Install smoke detectors in the kitchen, sleeping areas, and living spaces.
- ☐ Test smoke and carbon monoxide detectors monthly.
- ☐ Replace smoke and carbon monoxide detector batteries annually.
- ☐ Replace detectors as recommended by the manufacturer.
- ☐ Place a Class ABC fire extinguisher near the kitchen and sleeping areas.
- ☐ Ensure fire extinguishers are fully charged and easily accessible.
- ☐ Keep a fire blanket in the kitchen.
- ☐ Know how to use a fire extinguisher (PASS method: Pull, Aim, Squeeze, Sweep).

Propane System

- ☐ Inspect propane lines and connections for leaks regularly using the soapy water test.
- ☐ Have the propane system professionally inspected annually.
- ☐ Ensure propane tanks are securely mounted and not overfilled.
- ☐ Shut off propane when not in use.

Electrical System

- ☐ Use a surge protector for all shore power connections.
- ☐ Inspect electrical wiring, outlets, and cords for fraying, damage, or overheating.
- ☐ Avoid overloading circuits or outlets.
- ☐ Have the RV's electrical system inspected by a qualified technician annually.

Kitchen Safety

- ☐ Keep flammable materials (e.g., paper towels, curtains) away from cooking appliances.
- ☐ Never leave cooking food unattended.
- ☐ Use vent fans or proper ventilation to reduce grease buildup.

Emergency Preparedness

- ☐ Create and practice a fire escape plan with all occupants.
- ☐ Ensure all emergency exits, including windows and doors, are clear and functional.
- ☐ Keep a flashlight or headlamp accessible near every sleeping area.
- ☐ Conduct fire drills regularly with all occupants.

General Maintenance

- ☐ Inspect and service RV heaters and furnaces annually.
- ☐ Clean and maintain the RV engine to reduce fire risks.
- ☐ Check for debris buildup near the engine and exhaust system.
- ☐ Store flammable materials (e.g., gasoline, propane) in approved containers and away from heat sources.

The Soapy Water Test

What you'll need:

- A small container (bowl, cup, or spray bottle)
- Dish soap (any kind will work)
- Water
- A small brush or sponge (optional, for applying the solution)

Steps:

1. **Mix the solution:** In your container, mix a solution of equal parts dish soap and water. You want it to be sudsy but not too thick.
2. **Apply the solution:** Apply the soapy water solution to all propane connections, including:
 - The connection between the propane tank and the regulator
 - All connections along the propane lines
 - Connections with appliances (stove, water heater, furnace, etc.) You can use a brush or sponge to apply the solution or simply pour it over the connections.
3. **Observe for bubbles:** Carefully watch the connections for any signs of bubbles forming. If there's a propane leak, the escaping gas will cause bubbles to appear in the soapy water.
4. **Listen for hissing:** In addition to looking for bubbles, listen for a hissing sound, which can also indicate a leak.
5. **What to do if you find a leak:**
 - **Immediately turn off the propane supply at the tank.**
 - Do not operate any electrical switches or devices, as a spark could ignite the propane.
 - Extinguish any open flames or sources of ignition.
 - Ventilate the area by opening windows and doors.
 - Have the leak repaired by a qualified RV technician before using the propane system again.

Important Notes:

- **Perform this test regularly:** It's a good idea to perform the soapy water test every time you refill your propane tank or before each trip.
- **Don't use open flames:** Never use a match or lighter to check for propane leaks.

- **Trust your nose:** Propane has a distinct rotten egg smell added to it specifically to help detect leaks. If you smell propane, even without seeing bubbles, take immediate action.