

# How to Prevent False RV Sensor Readings

It's so satisfying when you have fixed a misreading sensor and are now enjoying the luxury of your RV with the confidence that your tank is as full or empty as the level monitor indicates. But the real question becomes, how can you continue that accuracy for many trips? Here are some specific habits taken right out of [The Unique Method's](#) guidelines for each tank and why they help prevent sensor problems.

## Gray/Galley Tanks

### Keep gray water valve open on hook-ups

If you're on hook-ups, keep your gray tank valve open with a [p-trap](#) in the hose. There is really no need to keep your gray valve closed while on sewer hook-up, but it should remain closed when not on sewer hook-up. It's still a good idea to deep clean your gray tank frequently even if you always keep the gray valve open because grease and oils will accumulate on the floor of the tank and could lead to odors.

**Guide:** [Deep Cleaning RV Wastewater Holding Tanks for step-by-step instructions](#)

**Guide:** [The Definitive Guide to Using Your RV Waste Water Valves](#)

### Wipe your dishes before washing them

Wipe your dishes of food particles and grease as much as possible before you wash them to prevent grease and oil from getting into the gray tank. If you let too much in there, the grease can quickly build up on the walls and sensors, which could cause them to misread.

**Guide:** [What to Allow in Your RV Holding Tanks](#)

### Place a sink strainer in your kitchen sink

Use a [sink strainer](#) to catch rogue food particles from going down the drain. Sink strainers are an easy, extra line of defense to keep your gray tanks free of debris that could cause sensor misreads.

### Use Dawn Ultra dish soap to wash your dishes

You might have heard us say many times that [Dawn Ultra](#) is the best product to use to clean your gray/galley tanks, but if you have decided to also treat your gray/galley tanks with a bacteria and enzyme product (like [Unique RV Digest-It](#)), then you should definitely use Dawn Ultra to wash dishes and even your hands because it won't disturb the good bacteria while it breaks down grease. If you decide to use some other brand of dish soap, use one that won't kill the good bacteria from your tank treatment.

### Deep clean your gray tank regularly

This should be done on the last night of every dry camping/boondocking trip or every 3-5 dumps (hook-up campers who keep their gray valve open). Because there is no way to rinse the gray tank as you do the black tank, it's important to deep clean the gray tank with [Dawn Ultra](#) as often as you are able. For those who constantly use their RV with the gray valve closed, it's especially important to do this on the last night of every camping trip to make sure your sensors don't start misreading from built-up layers of grime. Campers who usually have their gray valve open on hook-ups don't have to deep clean as frequently, but we still recommend doing it every 3-5 dumps or if you begin smelling odors coming from your gray tank.

**Guide:** [Deep Cleaning RV Wastewater Holding Tanks](#)



# Black Tanks

## Always flush/rinse your black tank

Flush for 5-10 minutes after every dump and for 20-30 minutes every 3-5 dumps. Rinsing your black water tank is important because when the tank drains, even liquefied waste will cling to the walls as the water level decreases, and leaving that thin film can easily create enough buildup on the tank sensors to cause them to misread.

**Guide:** [How to Flush Your RV Holding Tank](#)

## Deep clean tanks with [Unique Tank Cleaner](#)

You should deep clean your tanks at the start and end of the season (dry campers/boondockers) or every 5-10 dumps (full-time RVers). Deep cleaning while still using the tanks is a little more challenging, but our guide on deep cleaning walks you through how to modify that cleaning process.

**Guide:** [Deep Cleaning RV Wastewater Holding Tanks](#)

## Use lots of water in your black tank

Do this by holding down your flush pedal for at least 10 seconds on every flush. Depriving your black tank of all the water it needs could lead to lots of solid waste building up, which can easily block the sensors. Even on a boondocking trip, it's important to use a fair amount of water in your black tank to keep the good bacteria from high-quality treatments working to their full potential.

**Guide:** [Why Using Lots of Water in your RV Toilet and Tanks is Crucial](#)

### Note

This is only a brief explanation of tips and tricks you can employ to prevent sensor misreading, but you can find much more detailed information on this topic in our full-length Web guide on [How to Prevent False RV Sensor Readings](#).

## Don't use too much toilet paper

Using a lot of toilet paper can make things dicey for the tank sensors, especially if the toilet paper you use doesn't break down as well as it should for an RV holding tank. The type of toilet paper won't matter that much if you are using a high-quality, bacteria-based tank treatment, but it's still prudent to choose a brand of toilet paper that will break down quickly.

**Guide:** [Is RV Toilet Paper Necessary?](#)

## Use a high-quality, bacteria and enzyme tank treatment (like [Unique RV Digest-It](#))

Choosing a product like this is one of the best decisions you can make for your tank because it will do all the things you want (break down waste and control odors) and it will clean the sensors in the process.

**Guide:** [Why You Should Use a High-Quality Waste Digester in Your RV](#)

## Store your RV with a black tank full of water and [Unique Sensor Cleaner](#)

You thought storing your RV with a tank full of anything was a no-no, but as long as there is no chance of freezing, storing your black tank full of water and Sensor Cleaner for a while will help ensure that sensors are reading correctly on your next camping trip. Weekend warriors can easily store it this way for a week and then dump as soon as you get to the campground or in your home cleanout before you leave. We do not recommend storing your gray tank with water and Dawn Ultra as it provides no additional benefit.

