

How to Use RV Tank Rinsers and Other Rinsing Tools

Even seasoned RVers claim that you can just dump your tank without rinsing and still avoid odors and clogs. Our experiences with customers have shown us that not regularly rinsing your tanks will eventually lead to problems, so we recommend short rinses (5-10 minutes) after every dump and long rinses (20-30 minutes) every 3-5 dumps. Besides, if rinsing for five minutes after every dump will help guarantee that your sensors will continue functioning properly and your tanks will remain clog and odor-free, why skip this habit? We'll discuss the different rinsing tools that you might choose to use, a brief explanation of how to use them, and some resources on caring for them.

Typical Tank Rinsing Tools

Built-in Tank Rinser – some RVs are equipped with a tank rinser in the black tank that is like a fan on the roof of the tank that sprays water. When you attach a garden hose to the rinsing port on the outside of the RV, the rinser in the tank sprays multiple streams of high powered water all over the tank to knock residual black water gunk off the walls, sensors, and floor.

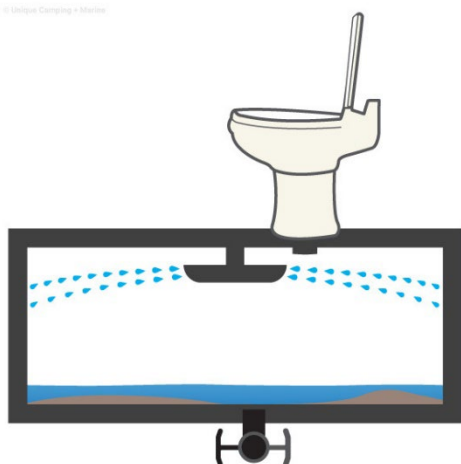
Tank Rinser Wand – a tank rinser wand is a special tool that you feed down through your RV toilet and into the black tank. It functions the same way as a manufacturer-installed rinser that sprays streams of water around the black tank to knock down residual waste, but is portable and storable.

Tank Backflusher – this is a device that attaches between the black tank valve and the discharge hose that runs to the sewer port at the dumping station. It provides a place to attach a garden hose; once the water is turned on, the backflusher pressurizes that water and sprays it back up into the tank through the black valve and rinse the wall and floor after you have dumped.

Rotary Tank Rinser – if your RV did not come equipped with a built-in tank rinser, there are aftermarket rinsers that can be permanently installed. Consider carefully before making the decision to use this kind of rinser because you must actually drill a hole in the tank to install it. If this makes you uncomfortable, opt for a different, less permanent option. The upside to this kind of rinser is that it will likely reach every inch of your tank because of its design and how it thrashes around when water runs through it.

Built-in Tank Rinser

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Procedure

1. Hook up your discharge hose to the sewer cleanout as normal.
2. **Open the black water valve to start dumping.**
3. While the waste is draining, hook up your designated garden hose to the rinsing inlet on the exterior of your RV.
4. Turn on the hose.

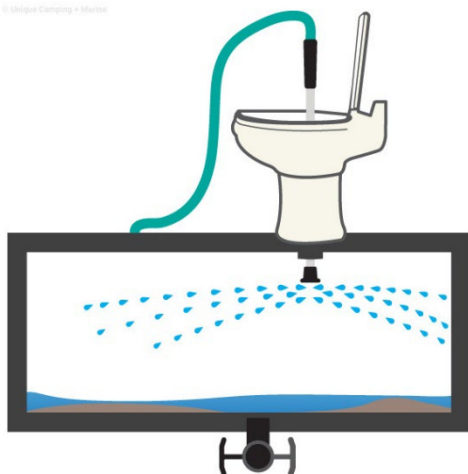
Note: The built-in tank rinser will start spraying the walls of the tank while it's draining and will continue rinsing as the water level drops.

5. When the water is continuously running clear through the discharge hose, turn off the garden hose (let the rinser work for at least 5-10 minutes).
6. **Close your black water valve**, and detach the garden hose.



Tank Rinsing Wand

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Procedure

1. Hook up your discharge hose to the sewer cleanout as normal.
2. **Open the black water valve to start dumping.**
3. Attach the designated garden hose to the handle portion of the rinsing wand.
4. After the tank is empty, turn off the freshwater in the RV.
5. Hold the toilet flush pedal down and put the spraying end of the rinsing wand down the toilet pipe.

Note: Don't let the toilet bowl valve snap back against the rinsing wand; avoid damage by investing in a [valve prop tool](#).

6. Turn on the garden hose and begin rinsing; we recommend a minimum rinse time of 5-10 minutes.

Note: Commercially available tank rinsing wands have a water shut off valve on the handle.

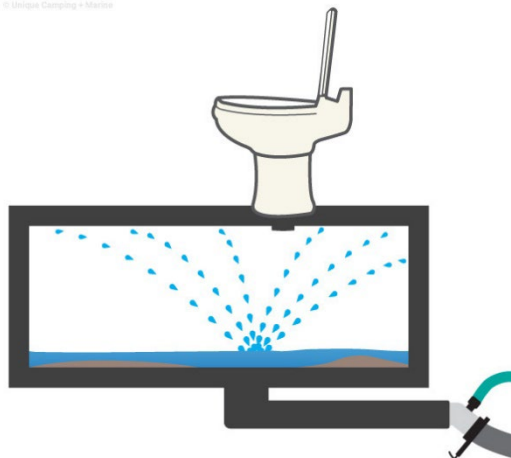
7. Once the discharge hose starts running clear, close the shut off valve on the rinsing wand so the water stops.

Note: You may see clear liquid coming out of the black tank discharge port very soon after starting to rinse (let the rinsing wand work for at least 5-10 minutes).

8. Turn off the hose spigot, and open the rinsing wand valve while still in the tank to release pressure.
9. Disconnect the hose from the rinsing wand handle outside of the RV in case there is residual water drip.
10. **Close the black water valve.**

Tank Backflusher

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Procedure

1. Attach the backflusher attachment to the discharge valve on the outside of your RV, and connect your discharge hose to the sewer cleanout.
2. Attach the designated garden hose to the hose inlet on the backflusher attachment and make sure the shutoff valve is closed.
3. **Open the black water valve to start dumping.**
4. When the tank is completely empty, turn on the garden hose spigot and start the backflusher.
5. After rinsing for a while, the water should start running clear; turn off the garden hose valve. Often, water will run clear within a few seconds, but there is more waste behind it that needs to be sufficiently rinsed out. A longer rinse time will ensure proper cleaning.
6. Detach all the dumping tools, clean them, and put them away.
7. **Close your black water valve.**



Using a Rotary Tank Rinser

A rotary tank rinser (like a [Camco Tornado Tank Rinser](#)) is a more permanent rinser and requires installation. In fact, it requires you to drill a hole in your tank to install the port for the rinser tube. We do not recommend this solution for those who often worry about issues cropping up because when you drill a hole in the tank, it's just another opportunity for leaks to develop if the seal around the hole fails. That's definitely NOT a spot where you want leaks to occur. A tank rinser wand or backflusher attachment will do just as good a job as a rotary rinser and will not add another potential leak point in your RV wastewater system.

If you really want to employ this option, there are lots of articles online that will walk you through installing it and using it or you can pay to have someone professionally install it so you can use it feeling good that the installation was done correctly.

How to Clean RV Tank Rinsers

Most sites will advise soaking rinsing tools and other dumping materials in bleach water, but there are several reasons why you might consider not using bleach. The biggest reason is because some dumping components may contain rubber seals and bleach can damage them, causing the seal to be less effective. It's much safer to soak them in a good mixture of water and antibacterial dish soap.

Note: For more information on caring for RV dumping materials, refer to our guide on the [Proper Care of RV Dumping Tools](#), and always wear gloves when cleaning dumping tools.

