

**Can I have a RV cover or other structure associated with my RV?**

All structures, such as RV covers, garages, shops, carports, awnings, decks, etc., are not allowed in conjunction with recreational vehicle usage unless they are properly permitted. There is a very limited exemption of certain types of non-permitted structures allowed in Grays Harbor County, but you must contact the Planning and Building Department to see if you qualify to receive this exemption. If you have questions regarding land use or building codes please contact the Grays Harbor County Planning and Building Division at 360-249-4222.



***CAUTION:***

*Illegal dumping of sewage and unsanitary conditions that constitutes a threat to the environment and human health can result in violations on the property. Failure to comply with County Code requirements may result in further enforcement action including referral to the County Prosecuting Attorney's Office and potential fines up to one-hundred dollars (\$100.00) on each day's failure to comply.*



**Other Useful Numbers:**

Planning and Building:  
(360) 249-4222

Environmental Health:  
(360) 249-4222

Sheriffs Office:  
(360) 249-3711

Public Health & Social Services:  
(360) 532-8631

Emergency Management:  
(360) 964-1575

# Recreational Vehicles

**Health and safety guidelines for recreational vehicle use**



**Grays Harbor County Public Services  
Environmental Health Division  
100 W. Broadway, Suite 31  
Montesano WA 98563  
Tel. (360)249-4222  
Fax. (360)249-3203  
[www.co.grays-harbor.wa.us](http://www.co.grays-harbor.wa.us)**



With numerous beaches, mountains, forests, and communities, Grays Harbor County is a travel and recreational destination for many outdoor activities such as camping, hiking, hunting, fishing, razor clam digging, water-sports, and festivals. The use of recreation vehicles and similar type temporary dwellings is widespread. Travel trailers and RV's, as indicated in their names, are for "travel and recreation," therefore they are for temporary use and are not intended to be used as a continuous residence. They are not intended as residential dwellings.

RV's can cause special problems and hazards when used contrary to their intended purpose. Due to many factors, such as economic hardship, locally, regionally, and nationally, there has been an increase in long term RV use. Grays Harbor County has adopted rules and policies to protect neighborhoods and property owners from unintended RV use. Occupancy of RV's on properties affects the health and safety of neighborhoods. Please be considerate of your neighbors.

### **What is considered a "recreational vehicle" (RV)?**

According to Grays Harbor County Code Chapter 8.20, "recreational vehicle" means a vehicle designed for short-term occupancy during travel, recreation, and/or vacation purposes including but not limited to the following types.....Camping (Tent) trailer, motorhome, travel trailer, or truck camper....." A RV is a vehicular type unit primarily utilized for recreational camping or travel that has its own mode of power or is mounted on, or towed by another vehicle.

Following code compliance, RV's can be utilized in licensed RV Parks, private lots, and stored on commercial storage facilities.

### **What is a "Park Model Trailer" and are they considered RV's?**

A park model trailer is a type of RV. A park model trailer is not considered to be a permanent structure nor is it a mobile/manufactured home.

### **What is a Mobile Home?**

A mobile home is built for use as living quarters. These dwellings are legal in mobile home parks and on private property if they meet the requirements set by the County Codes and the owner obtains the proper permits. RV's and park model trailers are built to different standards than mobile homes and are labeled accordingly.

### **Can I have an RV on my property and how many?**

- Except for licensed RV Parks & approved storage facilities, no more than 2-RV's can be placed on a parcel
- RV's can only be occupied by the property owner or an immediate family member
- RV's cannot be rented

### **How long can I stay in my RV? (Short term basis)**

ON LOTS WITH AN EXISTING HOME – if served by an approved septic system, Invited Guests are allowed to stay for a short-term duration (not more than (14) consecutive days within a two month period), and must use the sanitary facilities in the home (a guest cannot connect to the homes septic system directly). You cannot rent an RV or otherwise use an RV to expand living accommodations for family members.

### ON PARCELS WITHOUT A HOME –

The 14-day occupancy restrictions apply unless you have a septic system (see below). Keep sewage disposal receipts as evidence of proper waste management.

### **Can I use a RV as a residence? (Full time basis)**

If all the utilities available for a habitable residence are present and approved, then an RV can be occupied on a full time basis. This includes but is not limited to a minimum of a 2-bedroom approved septic system and a legal source of drinking water.

### **Can I live in an RV while I am constructing a residence?**

If you have the approved utilities, you may reside in an RV during construction. Upon completion, the RV must be disconnected from the utilities and may be stored on site.

### **Do I have to be connected to a septic system?**

- Yes, if you are occupying the RV on a full time basis
- No, if it's a temporary/short term basis, you must follow the rules outlined above
- Besides the onboard, self-contained holding tanks, No septic holding tanks are permitted
- Property Owners are responsible for any RV's on their property, whether they own them or not
- For short term use only; a self-contained portable toilet (aka "Sani-can," "Honey-Bucket," etc.), may be used under a service agreement with a licensed disposal contractor