

This process document corresponds to the YouTube video: [Dump Station Basics for Beginners](#). Please watch this video for visual understanding of the process. If you are getting started, many of the items mentioned are available on our [Amazon storefront](#). If this process is of value, we appreciate you starting your shopping from our store as it helps support our efforts.

**Step 1:** Before starting the process, stage your gloves, bleach wipes, your black tank flush hose, and a small trash bag to be easily accessible when arriving at the dump station. I use a small container that has my disposable gloves and wipes that I keep in the bed of my truck.

**Step 2:** Once at the dump station, pull your RV close enough to the dump station so that the sewer hose isn't too taut. You never want to have the sewer hose stretched too far, or it will pull out of the dump station inlet when the hose is pressurized.

**Step 3:** Remove the staged supplies, put on the gloves, and remove a bleach wipe once you are in position. I use the 5-mil blue disposable gloves.

**Step 4:** Remove your stowed sewer hose, assemble it if needed, and connect it to the RV's sewer tank outlet. *Before doing so*, check that the black and gray tank valves are fully closed, then ensure the hose connector is firmly attached to the RV's tank outlet.

**Step 5:** Connect the sewer hose to the dump station inlet. If there is a metal lid on the inlet, rest it on the sewer hose outlet. Ensure that the sewer hose is sitting securely into the dump station inlet and recheck that the sewer hose isn't too taut.

**Step 6:** Open the black tank valve and begin draining the tank. Always drain the black tank first, as the gray tank water will later be used to clean out the sewer residue in the hose. As the sewer hose fills with waste, double-check that there are no sewage leaks. Allow the black tank contents to drain thoroughly. This will take several minutes.

**Step 7:** Get your black tank flush hose. Before connecting the black tank flush hose to your RV, clean the non-potable water hose outlet or dump station hose with a bleach wipe. I sanitize this because people often use this hose to clean the inside of their sewer hose.

**Step 8:** Connect your black tank flush hose to the non-potable water hose or outlet at the dump station and to the black tank flush inlet on the RV, then turn on the water at the station and begin flushing. You should hear water coming through the black tank flush hose into the RV.

**Step 9:** When you are satisfied that the black tank water is exiting clear from the sewer hose, turn off the black tank flush water and let the black tank drain for several more minutes until no more water is exiting the tank. I use a [clear plastic elbow](#)\* at the dump station inlet to check the flow. These clear plastic elbows are essential equipment to see the contents of the waste tanks.

**Step 10:** While the black tank is draining, disconnect your black tank flush hose, and stow it. I connect the hose ends to each other after use to keep the hose from dripping.

**Step 11:** Close the black tank valve once you are satisfied that no water is draining from the black tank. I wait until I can't hear or see any more water coming from the black tank through the clear elbow before shutting off the black tank valve.

**Step 12:** Open the gray tank valve and allow it to drain thoroughly. It will take several minutes to empty.

**Step 13:** Once you are satisfied that the gray tank is fully drained, by neither seeing nor hearing any water draining, close the gray tank valve.

**Step 14:** Disconnect the sewer hose on the RV side and remember to replace the cap on the RV's sewer outlet.

**Step 15:** Lift the sewer hose at the RV side and let it fully drain into the dump station inlet. Since the gray tank contents have rinsed the sewer hose, I usually do not spray out the sewer hose using the dump station water. However, I would spray out the sewer hose using the dump station water if I didn't have much gray water to dump.

**Step 16:** Remove and disassemble the sewer hose and stow it. I usually connect the sewer hose to itself to keep it from dripping. I use a large container with a lid in the bed of my truck to stow any sewer hoses, or I use a five-gallon bucket with a lid when I am only carrying a single sewer hose.

**Step 17:** Carefully remove your gloves inside-out and dispose of them in the trash bag with the bleach wipe used earlier.

**Step 18:** Once the gloves and wipe are trashed, sanitize your hands, ensure everything is stowed, and leave the dump station.

**Step 19:** When you have pulled away from the dump station, find a place to park and add a few gallons of freshwater to the black tank from the freshwater tank. Do this through the toilet inside your RV using your water pump. It is essential that you remember to leave 4-5 gallons of water in the freshwater tank to do this.

**Step 20:** Add tank treatment to the black tank through the toilet. After I have filled the tank with 3-4 gallons of water, I add the tank treatment, then add one more gallon to mix the treatment. I do this before I depart the campground and hit the road. I've used [Happy Camper Tank Treatment](#)\* for years because it has worked well to reduce odors while breaking down solids.

That should do it! Remember that if you are new to RVing, we have many resources to help you get started. Just visit [johnmarucci.com/resources](http://johnmarucci.com/resources).

\*As an Amazon Associate, I earn from qualifying purchases.