

# Helpful Tips for Managing Power in your RV

Most campgrounds offer 30 amp receptacles which are preferred over the common household 15 amp receptacles. RVers should be equipped with an adapter to convert a large three prong 30 amp adapter plug to the smaller home-style 15 amp plug when a 30 amp receptacle is not available. Those RVs equipped with 50 amp service may need adapters to step down to a 30 amp service. If an extension cord is used to lengthen the RV's original power cord, it should be the same size as the original cord or sufficient power will not be provided. At Thunderbird Show Park we have mainly 30 amp service.

So, what does this all mean for you? You should be aware of how your unit is equipped, what are you plugging into, as well as what the different appliances in your RV use so you will not be inconvenienced by blowing a fuse. To figure out the amps you need for each appliance, divide the wattage by 115 to get a close enough figure. For example, if your microwave uses 1200 watts it will use 10.5 amps. I will list some common appliances below with the average amps they use for your information. Some of the newer models are "Power Smart" and use less. Just add up what you are using at one time to avoid blowing your power

- Air Conditioner 15 amps to start, then 12 to run
- Electric water heater\* 13 amps
- Electric coffee pot 13 amps
- Electric toaster oven 13 amps
- Hair dryer 13 amps
- Clothes dryer 13 amps
- Vacuum cleaner 13 amps
- Microwave 10 amps
- Electric toaster 6.5 amps
- Clothes washer 6 amps
- Refrigerator\* 6 amps
- Old TVs 6 amps
- New Power Smart TVs - 1.2amps running, .04 on standby
- Computer .2 amps

ELECTRIC WATER HEATER and REFRIDGERATOR use 19 amps between them and can be run on gas (proposane). I always do this anyway because fluctuations in power are hard on the refrigerator. There are switches in your unit to put them off electricity and onto gas. I hope this is helpful, not too confusing.

Thanks so much for coming and have a great show!

TBird Show Staff