

How To Guide

2016 170 Versatile



HOW TO: Potable Water Use

Your Roadtrek can operate in either fully self-contained mode, or can be connected to a water supply such as a campsite's faucet. The city water connection is in the driver's side rearmost compartment. Unscrew the white plastic protective cap and connect your clean hose to the water faucet and this connection point. Turn the faucet on and check for leaks, tightening the connections as necessary.



Campgrounds and municipalities vary greatly in supplied water pressure. Before connecting to external water supplies, purchase and install a pressure regulator in line with the water connection.

In a typical campground you may see the faucet with a back flow preventer attached. These look similar to a pressure regulator but do not affect the pressure. The back flow preventor is there to protect the campground. You need the pressure regulator to protect yourself from excess pressure.



Back flow preventer



Typical water pressure regulator)



You can fill your tanks using the gravity fills.

You can connect to a city water connection whenever your Roadtrek is not winterized. The city water inlet connection is located in the small compartment just in front of the driver's side rear tire.

 Roadtrek recommends that you use a dedicated single purpose potable-water hose. These are usually white in color. Buy a new one and use it only for filling your tanks and connecting to city water. View any hose lying around a campground with extreme skepticism, especially if there's a wastewater dump nearby. Large RVs use hoses to flush their wastewater system.



City water fill location



City water valve in closed (handle vertical) position



Attaching pressure regulator to city water fill location

To connect the Roadtrek's water system to an outside source:

- Turn the water pump off.
- Close the city tank fill valve by turning the handle to the vertical position.
- Close all interior faucets.
- Flush old water and any contaminants out of the water supply faucet.
- Connect your fresh water hose to the faucet.
- Attach your pressure regulator to the Roadtrek's city water connection.
- Attach a fresh water hose to the the pressure regulator.
- Slowly open the faucet of the city water source.

- The city water connection by-passes the water pump and fresh water tank. Therefore, the use of these items is not necessary when connected directly to an external water source.

To disconnect the city water connection:

- Turn off the external water source.
- Open a faucet to relieve the pressure in the system. Failure to do so will not damage your vehicle, but may result in an unexpected shower when you disconnect the hose. The outside shower faucet next to the city water connection is a convenient place to do this.
- Make sure the the city tank fill valve is closed (handle vertical).
- Remove the hose from the city water connection, and replace the cap on the fill connection.
- Disconnect the hose from the supply faucet and stow it in your storage compartment. Connecting the ends is a handy way to prevent dirt or other contaminants from entering the hose while stored.

 If you hear your pump running and water pressure is low inside the vehicle after disconnecting from an external water source, it is because you have not properly positioned the city water valve. Make sure the black plastic handle is vertical, and perpendicular to the water line when your water system is in self-contained mode.



Relieving water pressure by opening outside shower faucet

Two-Tank System in Self-Contained Mode

There are two fresh water tanks in your Roadtrek, the internal tank under the passenger side bench, and the external tank under the driver's seat. Each has its own gravity fill on the rear door passenger side door frame and driver's door frame, respectively.



Front (exterior) tank gravity fill



Rear (internal) tank gravity fill

There is a manual valve to select which tank your water pump draws water from. There is also a water line connecting the two tanks with a manual valve on it, so when this line is open water drains from the higher internal tank to the lower external tank. In non-freezing weather, the easiest way to use the system is to leave the valve on the line connecting the tanks open, and set the tank selector valve to draw water from the lower external tank. As you use water from this tank, water from the internal tank replenishes it by gravity, so you can use all of the water from both tanks hold simply by filling them up and turning on the water pump.

To access the tank selector valve and the tank isolator valve, look inside the water heater enclosure, on the floor just to the left of the refrigerator. The tank selector valve has a long plastic covered handle, usually either yellow or red. When this handle is pointed toward the front of the Roadtrek, the tank selector valve is drawing water from the internal tank. You want it to be pointing toward the driver's side of the vehicle - that's the position where it's drawing water from the external tank.



Tank selector valve in exterior tank position



Tank isolator valve in open position

The tank isolator valve is just a couple of inches to the rear of the vehicle from the tank selector valve (to your left as you look into this cabinet) at the base of the large black speaker, and is a smaller black plastic handle on a white water line. You want this handle to be horizontal and pointed along the water line (open), not vertical and across it (closed). Set the tank selector and isolator valves in these positions for warm weather operation, and simply fill up your tanks when they run out. You don't have to change a thing until you need to operate in winter mode, or winterize the system. To see how to do that, check out the HOW TO: Summer and Winter Mode and the HOW TO: Water System Winterizing - Standard Edition sections.

If you are driving for extended distances and don't want to carry extra water you don't need (33 gallons of water weighs 275 pounds, and it takes fuel to lug that much weight cross country), just put water in the front (exterior) tank at the driver's door gravity fill, and leave the back (interior) tank empty. You will still have 17 gallons or so of water for use, and will travel lighter with a better weight distribution since your rear axle will be about 85 pounds lighter. Every little bit helps. Of course, once you get to the area where you're going to camp, fill up both tanks before you head out boondocking so you can stay out for a longer time without running out of water.