

# Thought Provoking Stuff

## Black tank:

- Add a gallon of water before use (avoid the dreaded “poop pyramid”)
- Use deodorizer
- Empty black tank before grey tank
- Use a [clean out wand](#) during/after dumping

## Grey tank:

- Older Casitas have grey tank exit plumbing running slightly “up-hill”
- Stack [leveling pads \(cut in half\)](#) under curb side trailer wheel when visiting the dump site

## Water heater:

- Always (**ALWAYS**) insure that the water heater is full before activating (prevent electric heating element burn-out)
- Electric:
  - The primary electric switch is outside on the lower left side of the water heater behind the (gas) venturi tube
  - The secondary switch (if installed via a modification) is inside the travel trailer
  - Both switches must be “on” to run the water heater on electric
- Propane:
  - Use when electric (shore power) is not available
  - Interior propane side light illuminates only when water heater initiates ignition cycle
- Two thermostats: one for electric, another for propane

## Fridge:

- Three way: 120v ac, propane or 12v dc
- Works flawlessly on 120v ac and propane operation
- Conventional wisdom(?):
  - Absorption fridge (ammonia based) requires(?) that the trailer be level (front to back and side to side)
  - 12v operation seems to be anemic (and might increase demand on battery or tow vehicle alternator)
- Door shelves are not designed to hold heavy items while driving ; especially canned soda and beer

## Electric:

- 120v ac:
  - 30 amp cord with connector
  - circuit breakers
  - air conditioner
  - interior outlets and exterior outlet
- 12v dc:
  - automobile type fuses
  - supplied by battery which is maintained by the converter (shore power or generator) or solar or tow vehicle
    - ◆ lights
    - ◆ fridge air circulation
    - ◆ fridge temperature control
    - ◆ fridge 12v operation
    - ◆ fridge propane ignition
    - ◆ break-away switch
    - (for electric trailer brakes)
    - ◆ furnace thermostat
    - ◆ furnace propane ignition
    - ◆ furnace fly switch
    - ◆ furnace blower
    - ◆ solar controller **##**
    - ◆ solar bluetooth module **##**
    - ◆ USB Outlets **##**
    - ◆ stove vent
    - ◆ bath vent
    - ◆ water pump
    - ◆ water heater electric thermostat
    - ◆ water heater propane thermostat
    - ◆ water heater propane ignition
    - ◆ propane detector **##**
- [Battery Isolation](#): **##** use battery switch or anderson disconnect to isolate the battery when not camping or driving
- Converter
  - converts 120v ac to 12+v dc
  - insure that converter controls provide for wet-cell/AGM/Lithium charging
  - if interior lights do not work when connected to shore power (or generator) **and** the battery is disconnected **and** the tow vehicle is disconnected **and** solar is disconnected, then the converter is “dead”
- Inverter (optional equipment)
  - converts 12v dc to 120v ac
  - Requirements calculator:
    - ◆ calculate amperage for each appliance using formula:  $I = P \div E$  or conversely  $P = I \times E$
    - where **I** = amps and **P** is expressed in watts and **E** = 120 (volts)

- ◆ sum up the amps from each appliance to figure out which appliances can be run together or separately
- Solar (optional equipment):
  - Used when “dry camping” or “boondocking”
  - Primary use is to “top off” the battery as it becomes discharged
- Generator [or Inverter Generator] (optional equipment):
  - Used when “dry camping” or “boondocking”
  - Requirements calculator (same as inverter above)  
Nominal max required for a Casita is 3,600 watts (30 amps)

### **Winterizing:**

- antifreeze (pink stuff) method vs. blow-out method
  - antifreeze method requires un-winterizing process
  - blow-out method requires use of blow-out plug and air compressor (or tire inflator)
- both methods require use of the “bypass valve”
- blow out method: [Casita – How to Winterize your Travel Trailer by RV Adventures](#)

### **Battery:**

- wet cell vs. AGM vs Lithium
- CCA does not pertain to a travel trailer
- Deep Cycle (reserve capacity in amp hours) is the significant measure
- Disconnect switch or Anderson disconnect is needed when storing trailer for long periods to isolate parasitic loads (propane detector, solar controller, blue-tooth devices, etc.) [see [Battery-Isolation](#) above]
- Lithium considerations:
  - cell balancing feature
  - internal heater?
  - charging control (DC-DC converter) to protect tow vehicle alternator from burn-out

### **Surge Protector**

- Always use when camping to protect trailer from surges and ground faults

### **Water:**

- Always use a [pressure reducer](#) **AND** an [inline water filter](#) when connected to “City Water”
- Use a [water tank filler](#) device when filling the fresh water tank

### **LED lights:**

- Best to use bulbs that are rated 9v – 15v (voltage levels from battery and converter)

### **Propane Usage:**

- For dual tanks, always turn one tank off
- The center position of the propane valve connects both tanks together; it does not auto-switch from one tank to the other when one tank empties
- Refill the “primary tank” when manually switching to the “secondary tank”

### **Stabilizers**

- Two stabilizers are provided at the rear of the trailer just in front of the rear bumper
- [This video](#) describes the procedure to set and stow the stabilizers

### **Trailer hook-up process to tow vehicle:**

- adjust trailer tongue height approximately ½" higher than tow vehicle hitch ball
- In lieu of having a spotter to assist, use a [magnet trailer alignment kit](#) ([Harbor Freight 69778](#) or equivalent)
  - put one “marker” on the trailer tongue
  - put the other “marker” on top of the tow vehicle hitch ball
  - align the tow vehicle and back it toward the trailer until the trailer tongue knocks the marker” on the hitch ball askew
- After dropping and latching the tongue onto the hitch ball:
  - Using the tongue jack, raise the tongue until the tow vehicle also raises (confirms hookup)
  - If using a weight distribution hitch, with the tow vehicle raised, set and adjust weight distribution chains (or trunnion bars)
  - Using the tongue jack, lower the trailer tongue until the tongue jack is completely compressed and in a stored position
- Hook up safety chains by crossing them from the tongue to the tow vehicle hitch receiver
- Hook up break-away cable
- Attach sway bar

### **Window-frame Maintenance:**

- Periodically insure that the weep holes on the window frames are not clogged by using three-four feet of [.095 weed-eater trimmer line](#) to dislodge any dust/silt that might have accumulated inside the channels

### **Information:**

- [Casita Travel Trailer A-Z Owner's Guide](#) by Eileen Glick also on [Amazon](#)  
I got the digital version from Eileen's website and my license is for personal use on each/every device I own
- [Don Dayton's Casita Mods](#) a great collection of “how to” modifications in the form of cookbook pictures
- [FiberglassRV.com](#)
- [Escape Forum](#)
- [The Handy Camper](#)
- [Little House Customs](#)
- Annual Rally Maps: [<2025>](#) and [<2024>](#)

**Black Tank Dumping:**

Although I have never used the toilet in my Casita, here are some useful stories that I have chanced upon:

- [Empty your waste tanks cleanly and easily](#)
- [Black water spill?](#)
- [Movie clip: RV – The Poop Geyser Scene \(Robin Williams\)](#)