

Frequently Asked Questions—Campgrounds

Plumbing

What is required on each hose connection?

All threaded hose connections are required to have an ASSE 1011 or ASSE 1052 backflow prevention device installed.



How can I provide an additional water connection at a single campsite?

A riser tee is an approved design to provide an additional water supply connection. Each connection must have a backflow prevention device installed.



Are hose splitters allowed?

A two-way splitter, multi-way splitter, or multiple splitter devices may be used on a water supply at an individual campsite. The splitter devices may be used to provide water to an individual RV water system and to additional hose(s) for other purposes within the individual campsite. A backflow prevention device is required between the campsite water supply and the inlet of the splitter. Additional backflow prevention devices are not required.

A splitter **cannot** be used to provide water to more than one campsite or to more than one RV.



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Camping Cabins and Similar

For a camping cabin constructed after February 6, 2017, are there any special requirements?

New camping cabins and similar structures (those constructed after February 6, 2017) must meet Wis. Admin. Code ch. SPS 327. Existing camping cabins (those constructed before February 6, 2017) must still meet applicable areas of ATCP 79 to assure rentals are clean and safe to use. For more information about Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS) requirements for camping units (including SPS 327 fact sheets), please visit the DSPS website: <https://dsps.wi.gov/Pages/Programs/UDC/CampingUnits.aspx>.

Separation

Within a Campsite

An accessory is located four feet from a pop-up camper (camper body). Is there any requirement for distance between the accessory and the pop-up camper within a campsite?

Wis. Admin. Code ch. ATCP 79 Campgrounds does not specify a minimum or maximum distance that an accessory must be located with respect to the camping unit within the campsite. Local zoning or fire ordinances may apply, however. For example, the Campground Code does not prohibit location of a storage shed from being located four feet from the camping unit.

What about distances that affect whether something is considered an accessory?

For existing campsites, an accessory is not included in any measurements between camping units because it is not considered part of the camping unit for existing campsites.

For a new campsite, an accessory within 10 feet of the camper body is considered part of the camping unit. If the accessory is more than 10 feet from the camper body, it is not considered part of the camping unit when the distance is measured to the next camping unit at the adjacent campsite. The reason it is not included is that there is enough greenspace when the accessory is located more than 10 feet from the camper body.

Between Existing Camping Units

What distance is required between a camper body with a deck and another camper with a deck for existing campsites? For existing campsites, a shed, deck, or other accessory is not considered part of the *camping unit*. The measurement between the existing camping unit on campsite A and the existing camping unit on Campsite B must be at least 10 feet. *This means that the measurement is taken from the edge of camper body to the edge of the next camper body, and that distance must be at least 10 feet.* In this example, the measurement would be between *camper bodies*, not decks. If the distance is not at least 10 feet between camper bodies, there must be a plan to bring the measurement into compliance so that the camping unit on Campsite A and the Camping Unit on Campsite B is at least 10 feet.

What if someone adds a deck to an existing RV parked in an existing campsite? Does the deck count in the measurement of camping unit to camping unit in the next existing campsite?

The new accessory will not be counted in an existing campsite. Measurements will still be made camper body to camper body.

DEFINITIONS

Accessory – Items such as a deck or a shed, whether portable or stationary, plastic or wood.

Camper Body – A place where people sleep. This may mean a pop-up camper, a tent, or an RV without any accessories such as decks, sheds, or slide outs.

Existing Campsite – The campsite was added and licensed before February 1, 2016.



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Between Campsites – New Campsite Adjacent to Existing Campsite or Other New Campsite

A new campsite has been added. How far must the camping unit on this site be from the camping unit on the next campsite?

For any campsite added on or after February 1, 2016, the accessory at the new campsite will be included as part of the *camping unit* if it is within 10 feet of the *camper body*. The measurement taken between a camping unit at the existing campsite and the camping unit at the new campsite must be 10 feet or more.

What about existing campsites with existing campers? For example, one “seasonal” (season-long) user is less than 10 feet from the next RV?

For an existing campsite, the distance must be 10 feet or more between the RVs. As they are existing campsites, the measurement is made from camper body to camper body (in this case, RV to RV). An action plan should be developed and implemented.

What about existing campsites with new campers? For example, one “seasonal” (season-long) user leaves and the next user arrives with a larger RV, now causing there to be less than 10 feet between RVs?

This does not meet code requirements for separation. The distance must be 10 feet. Immediate action is required.

Sanitary Stations

There is no sanitary station. What can be done?

If 20 or fewer of the campsites are DESIGNATED for use by independent users and not connected to a sewer or private onsite wastewater treatment system (POWTS), and there is a dump station within 25 miles willing to sign an agreement to let the campground’s patrons dump there, the campground operator can apply for a variance. If not, they are in violation of Wis. Admin. Code § ATCP 79.15(2) and should work with their inspector to correct as needed. Again, if they cannot meet the Campground Code, they may request for a variance, and *the variance is required*.

RV Transfer Tanks in Use

100% of the campsites are DESIGNATED for use by “seasonal” (season-long) independent campers with RV transfer tanks.

There is no sanitary station. What can be done?

This meets DSPS Code for POWTS (see Wis. Admin. Code § SPS 383.32). No sanitary dump station is needed. No variance is required. Back-up toilets are still required, however.

Portable Transfer Tanks in Use

The campground owner says they have small portable ‘RV transfer tanks.’ Are these the same as the stationary RV transfer tank?

No, these portable containers do not meet the definition of RV transfer tank in Wis. Admin. Code ch. SPS 381 definitions. They may be *used* but cannot be counted as RV transfer tanks.

Other Considerations

Phone: Must the phone be a landline and located with 24/7 access?

There is no requirement that the phone be at the campground, or within any distance of the campground. The only requirement is for signage at the campground that tells where the nearest available phone is. The phone must be any phone that will work reliably, and it must be available 24/7. The Campground Code does not specify landline.

Can I put my camping cabin on a campground that is owned by someone else and use the campsite myself?

Yes.

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Is the fire extinguisher required if there are no permanent commercial buildings?

No, so toilet buildings would not need a fire extinguisher, but buildings such as lodges, game rooms, club houses, and offices would.

Can records be stored off-site?

Yes, as long as the records are made available to the inspector.

A building used as sleeping quarters does not have plumbing and is 500 square feet. Can this be a camping cabin?

No, because the footprint is over 400 square feet. The building will need to have plumbing installed and be licensed as a Tourist Rooming House.

Is a deck on a camping cabin counted as part of the 400 square feet maximum?

The deck is not included in the calculation of square footage. The area limitation does not include decks and three-season porches not used for overnight sleeping accommodations.

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