THE SMART RVer PODCAST | EPISODE 215

Why Is My RV Water Pump Running?

A practical checklist to use before replacing the pump.

Pump brand/model: _____ **Date:** _____

What changed recently? Storage / winterizing / plumbing repair / new fixture / other

1 IDENTIFY THE SYMPTOM

- ☐ Briefly runs with all fixtures closed.
- ☐ Runs continuously or will not shut off.
- ☐ Rapidly cycles while a faucet is open.
- ☐ Sputters or delivers little water.

2 ESTABLISH A KNOWN STARTING POINT

- ☐ Turn off and disconnect city water. Confirm water is in the fresh tank.
- ☐ Verify tank-fill, winterizing, and bypass valve settings using your RV instructions.
- ☐ Purge air through fixtures. Keep water heater heat sources off; never heat an empty tank.
- ☐ Close every fixture. Observe whether the pump stops and how soon it restarts.

Before opening fittings or the strainer: Switch the pump off, disconnect city water, and open a faucet to relieve pressure. Let hot water cool. Stop the supply immediately if water is actively leaking.

3A CYCLES WITH FIXTURES CLOSED

- ☐ Inspect sink plumbing, toilet valve/supply, exterior shower, drains, and pump fittings.
- ☐ Look for fresh moisture at accessible connections and leakage at the city-water inlet.
- ☐ Observe water heater connections and relief-valve discharge. Never plug the relief valve.
- ☐ No visible leak? Consider hidden leaks or internal pump leak-back; arrange further testing.

3B CYCLES WHILE WATER FLOWS

- ☐ Compare a trickle with a more open faucet; then compare another fixture.
- ☐ Check the affected aerator, showerhead, filters, and plumbing for restrictions.
- ☐ Check model guidance: some low-flow cycling can be normal.
- ☐ Avoid pressure/bypass adjustments without the exact pump manual.

4 RUNS CONTINUOUSLY, SPUTTERS, OR HAS LITTLE FLOW

- ☐ Switch off while investigating. Recheck water supply, valve positions, and intake kinks.
- ☐ Inspect the strainer and seal with power off and pressure relieved. Check for intake air leaks.
- ☐ Check for pressure-side water loss. If unresolved, seek model-specific pump and voltage tests.

Record: Restart interval: _____ One fixture or all? _____ Flow: steady / sputtering
Leak location / findings: _____
Next action: _____