



FACTSHEET

SELF-CONTAINED CAMPING THE ULTIMATE MOTORHOMING EXPERIENCE

New Zealand is a wonderful place — a land blessed with a temperate climate, crystal-clear lakes, vast beaches and abundant greenery. The joy of self-contained motorhoming is the freedom to embrace it all, up close, and leave the pressures of urban life behind.

Self-contained motorhomes

A self-contained motorhome is one that you can live in for a minimum of three days without requiring external services for ablutionary and sanitary needs.

Kiwis are lucky — as long as our vehicles are self-contained, we can stay at Department of Conservation camps, regional parks, council parks, NZMC camps and park-over properties (POPs), for a nominal cost. Motorhomers living overseas often don't have this privilege and, instead, are restricted to stopping at paid camping grounds.

Unfortunately some motorhomes are completely inadequate for a self-contained lifestyle and others only enable camping without external services for up to two nights.

The minimum legal requirements to be certified self-contained

- Fresh water supply: 4L per person per day and a minimum of 12L per person
- A fitted sink connected to a sealed grey waster water tank
- Toilet: 1L per person per day and a minimum or 3l holding tank capacity per person
- Holding tank: 4L per person per day and a minimum of 12L per person
- An evacuation hose
- A sealable refuse container.

This is the minimum; however, it's not realistic — with the specified minimum levels of water, you can do very little. A motorhome, designed for NZ conditions, should have more than the minimum requirement of fresh water capacity. If you are interested in freedom camping organise a needs assessment consultation with TrailLite to ensure you get the right product and specification for you. Poor self-containment has led motorhomers to dumping waste in public areas. This is an environmental issue and if you are caught dumping waste, the penalties are harsh.

What happens to the waste?

There are dump stations, which connect to reticulated sewerage systems, throughout New Zealand. It is important that the chemicals used in the waste water are approved in order to avoid affecting the operation of these systems.

Questions to ask when buying a self-contained motorhome

- Is the motorhome certified self-contained?
- What is the storage capacity for fresh water? If the motorhome is purpose-built for self-containment, it will usually have double, perhaps four times the storage capacity of cheaper models.
- What is the storage capacity for grey and black water? Grey water is used for washing and black is for ablutions.
- Does the motorhome contain the latest technology, such as solar panels, regulators and chargers, giving maximum battery capacity when away from mains power?
- How much general storage space is there?
- How large is the fridge/freezer?

How do i obtain Self-Containment

Here at TrailLite we complete the certified self-containment documentation based on the NZMCA requirements and lodge this with them on your behalf. All motorhomes with the self-containment certification receive a sticker that must be in view on the motorhome when traveling and freedom camping. Otherwise speak with the NZMCA by visiting their website to find a representative in your area.

Respecting the environment

Self-contained motorhoming is all about camaraderie, enjoying New Zealand's great outdoors, and above all, respecting the environment. Properly self-contained motorhomes allow you to leave only your footprints, or tyre tracks, behind.

Please note all prices and all information is subject to change at any time and was accurate at time of printing. Please do not use this information as a complete resource, always do your own research.

We've thought of everything

