

Water, Fresh and Otherwise

A summary of camp water and plumbing. (Updated May 2025)

Fresh Water Sources

| Tank | Capacity (gal) | Refills Available? | Used in 2024 | 2025 Plans |
|-----------------|----------------|--------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Gayflower Tanks | 2310 | No | 1000 for kitchen 454 for showers | Fixxer to fill in Gerlach before burn |
| Build Team RV | 176 | Yes | 251 for build RV | 2 refills preordered from SSS |
| SSS Tank | 500 | Yes | 600 for canteens | Preordered 1 refill - use for kitchen |
| | | | 2305 total 6.2 gal per camper day | |

Gayflower Tanks - Details

As of 2025 the Gayflower has 7 brand new IBC totes that hold 330 gallons each so we will have a capacity of 2,310 gallons.

The totes are filled in [Gerlach](#) for about \$0.50 per gallon by Empire Storage and Rental (Andy "Fixxer" Owens) who store the Gayflower.

- Do not use other water sources in the area such as Empire or other wells. They usually have sulphuric water due to the hot springs which doesn't taste great.

The gayflower tanks are directly plumbed to provide showers, toilets, and sinks in the Gayflower, however, there is also an option to hook up hoses. In 2024 we used the bright green hose to fill the tank in the Food Fort.

Build Team RV Fresh Water - Details

The build team RV has a large fresh tank which holds 176 gallons of water.

We usually fill that in Reno at the GSR RV Resort (where we stay for one night before driving in.)

We can also get it refilled on playa by pre-ordering from Sierra Site Services.

SSS Tank - Details

We can rent a 500 gallon tank from Sierra Site Services which comes with a pump and 15' hose. They bring it and fill it up, and they can come back to refill it.

In **2024** this tank was only used for canteen filling.

In **2025** the plan is to use it for the kitchen and possibly canteen filling.

There are other vendors besides Sierra Site Services, but we had terrible experiences with Meco in 2023 and SSS has been absolutely amazing.

Waste Water

"Grey Water" refers to water from sinks and showers which has come in contact with humans and is unsafe to reuse or evaporate. "Black Water" refers to water from toilets which is even worse.

| Tank | Capacity (gal) | Pumpouts Available? | Used in 2024 (est) | 2025 Plans |
|-----------------------|----------------|---------------------------------|--|--|
| Gayflower Black Tanks | 1250 | No | 600 | |
| Gayflower Grey Tanks | 1250 | No | 1100 | |
| Build Team RV Black | 100 | Yes (flag a truck) | 150 | |
| Build Team RV Grey | 100 | Can be sump pumped to Gayflower | 200 | |
| SSS Tank | 250 | Yes | 1000 mostly from kitchen and neighbors | We have preordered 100 gallons in pumpouts |
| | | | 2850 total | |

Gayflower Grey and Black Tanks - Details

Under the floor of the Gayflower are 10 (ten) 250 gallon tanks. The ones on the driver side are all plumbed together and hold black water from the toilets. The ones on the passenger side are all plumbed together and hold grey water from showers and sinks.

During the week we could use a sump pump or water bug to pump excess grey water from somewhere else (kitchen, RV) into the Gayflower since it has so much capacity. In 2024 we pumped this into the grey water side, but in 2025 we should pump it into the black water side since that side has so much more capacity.

As of 2025 there are water level sensors connected to these tanks so you can read their *approximate* level. We didn't have any way to test them in advance so we'll see how well they work!

RV Tanks

The Build Team RV has two tanks, probably about 100 gallons each, for grey and black water.

You can theoretically flag down a USS truck at Burning Man which will pump them out for some cash (in 2024 we didn't see many of those trucks)

You can also sump pump excess *grey* water to the Gayflower.

After the burn you can dump them at the [GSR](#) in Reno (if we're staying there), the [TA Travel Center](#) in Sparks, or at the Loves in Fernley.

SSS Grey Water Tank - Details

We can rent a 250 gallon grey water tank from SSS which is a low cube. They will come and pump this out during the week (if paid in advance).

In 2024 was used primarily for the kitchen, but some neighboring camps who had not made arrangements for grey water also dumped their grey water in there. We filled it 4 times.

In 2025 it will again be used exclusively for the kitchen.

Vendors

Sierra Site Services
Office: 888-458-8777
Mobile: 530-957-5049

Contact there is Michelle Haley <michelle@sierrasiteservices.com> and they have an office on playa.

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