

WINTERIZING YOUR RV



It's that time of year again. Winter is on it's way. Don't let your RV get stuck out in the cold. As soon as the temperature starts dropping you need to be thinking about getting your RV winterized. Winterizing your RV is probably one of the most simple things you can do in RV maintenance but, it is also very important to follow each step in correct sequence. If even one of your components freeze (water heater, pump, lines, faucets, toilet, water filters, ice makers, hydra hots, washing machines, etc.) it may have been cheaper to bring your RV to our Service Shop and had the procedure done by an RV Service Technician.

What you will need to get started:

- Non-toxic RV antifreeze. The Traveland RV Parts Department has a good supply. (The amount you need depends on the layout and length of your RV and plumbing lines. Two to three gallons will normally do.)
- A water heater by-pass kit, if not already installed. You can find the proper one for your RV in our Parts Department.
- A flushing wand to clean out holding tanks.
- A water pump converter kit, or tubing to connect to the inlet side of the water pump.
- Tools to remove drain plugs.
- Be sure to read your owners manuals for unit specific winterizing guidelines. Follow the steps below that apply to your RV.



- If you have any inline water filters remove and bypass before starting. Follow winterizing instructions on water filter casing.
- Locate the fresh water tank drain valve or plug and drain the fresh water tank.
- Drain and flush the gray and black holding tanks. If your RV doesn't have a built in tank flushing system clean the black tank out with a flushing wand. Lubricate the termination valves with WD 40.
- To drain the water heater remove the drain plug or anode rod and open the pressure relief valve. CAUTION (never drain the water heater when it is hot or under pressure) If your water heater is equipped for electric heating, turn off the heating element. (The ON/OFF switch is located on the water heater.) This will protect the element if the unit is plugged in while being stored.
- Locate and open any low point drain lines. There will be one each for the hot and cold water lines. Using the water pump will help force water out, but turn it off as soon as the system is drained.
- Recap all drains and close all faucets.
- By-pass the water heater. The WATER HEATER BY-PASS is used when winterizing the water system. The by-pass is a series of valves or a single lever that allows the water flow to be shut off from the water heater, yet still be pumped to the rest of the hot water piping. If you do not have a by-pass kit installed the water heater will fill up with antifreeze before it goes through the water lines, requiring six or more gallons of antifreeze.
- Install a water pump converter kit, or disconnect the inlet side of the water pump (the line coming from the fresh water holding tank). Connect a piece of clear tubing to the inlet side of the pump and put the other end into the container of non-toxic RV antifreeze.
- Turn the water pump on. Starting with the closest faucet to the pump, slowly open the hot and then cold valves until antifreeze appears. Close the faucet.
- Repeat this process on all faucets from the closest to the farthest away from the pump. Add antifreeze bottles as required. Don't forget the outside shower, if equipped.
- Flush the toilet until antifreeze appears.
- Turn the water pump off and open a faucet to release the pressure. Go outside to the city water inlet. Remove the small screen over the inlet and push in on the valve with a small screwdriver until you see antifreeze. Replace the screen.
- Pour a cupful of antifreeze down each drain. Pour a couple of cups in the toilet and flush into the holding tank. Add one cup to sit on closed valve seal.
- Make sure all the faucets are closed.
- Consult your owner manuals for winterizing icemakers, washing machines, hydro hot heating and other optional items.

This checklist is a basic guide that was intended to assist you in winterizing your RV. As with many other checklists it would be impossible to cover every RV. It is extremely important that you read your owner's manuals for unit specific winterizing guidelines.

