

# RV Winterizing Checklist

## Beginner's Guide: How To Winterize Your RV

For most RV enthusiasts, the camping season ends in the fall. Freezing temperatures and icy roads render RV life less than ideal. At the end of the camping season, it is critical that you winterize your RV to protect it from harsh winter conditions and to mitigate any costly repairs come Springtime. Follow the steps below to prevent damages and keep your RV in great condition.

### 1. Drain Water Tanks

Water freezes at 28 degrees Fahrenheit and can crack pipes and cause expensive damage if your RV isn't completely drained and properly winterized. Follow these general guidelines to drain all sources of water.

- Drain the holding tanks first
- Drain the fresh water tank
- Drain the water heater
- Relieve pressure from tank by pulling the pressure relief valve
- Remove anode rod with a wrench and let water drain out

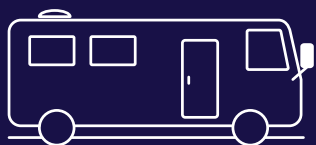
### 2. Flush Water Pipes

After all the water has been drained, the pipes will need to be flushed to remove leftover water from the sinks, showerhead, toilet etc. If you use airpressure to do so, follow the steps below.

- Attach pressure regulator to city water hookup.
- Set to a maximum of 40-50 psi so proper force is applied without damaging the water system.
- Expel water from water heater

If you don't have a bypass water kit, you'll need one so you can direct the air pressure away from the water heater to other pipes. To bypass the water heater:

- Close the hot and cold water inlets and open the bypass loop to direct pressure to the right places
- Turn on sink faucet and run cold water until mostly air is coming out.
- Then turn off the cold and turn on the hot water until clear.
- Repeat on all sinks, toilets, and shower systems.



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## 3. Pump Antifreeze through all Water Pipes

If you use the following method, you can decrease the amount of anti-freeze you use and prevent any from getting into the potable water tank.

- Locate the water pump and remove the inlet hose and attach a pump covering hose in its place.
- Put the other end of the hose into the bottle of antifreeze and turn the pump on.
- Turn on each faucet's cold and hot settings and the antifreeze will immediately be pumped through the system. Keep faucet setting on cold until a steady flow of pink liquid is coming out.
- Do the same for hot water. Repeat on all sinks, showers, and toilets.
- Take converter hose out and replace original hose and turn off the water pump.
- Don't forget to pour antifreeze down sinks and showers to get in the traps and in toilets to prevent freezing in those places.
- Lastly, leave faucets open to leave room for potential freezing or in case the antifreeze becomes slushy

## 4. Seal Aneode for Good Measure

Now that antifreeze is in all plumbing systems, it's time to replace the aneode.

- Be sure to put some kind of sealant around the aneode to create a tight seal and prevent any leaks.
- Always begin to put the aneode in by hand then using a wrench to tighten.

## 5. Drain Water Tanks Again

Because you've now drained water from the tanks and pipes, pressurized the system, and have pumped antifreeze through the pipes, it's always a good idea to drain the pipes one last time to get the leftover water out.

- Drain the black tank first and gray tank second.

Keep in mind that this is a beginner's guide and there may be other steps you need to take to prepare your make and model for winter. Please check your owner's manual for additional recommendations your RV manufacturer might have for winterizing your RV. This checklist, alongside your manual, will have you well on the way to a winter-proof RV that will be ready to go come Springtime.