

PRACTICAL RV BASICS

SPRING STARTUP - Restore systems carefully and inspect for freeze damage

Inspect the RV and Restore the Water System

RV: _____ Date: _____ Outside temperature: _____

INITIAL INSPECTION

- ☐ Inspect beneath and around the RV for leaks, pest damage, loose parts and signs of water intrusion.
- ☐ Check roof, sealants, vents, windows, doors, awnings and exterior compartments.
- ☐ Inspect tires for pressure, age, cracking, damage and flat spotting.
- ☐ Inspect visible hitch, chassis, suspension, wiring and brake components.
- ☐ Remove storage covers and pest barriers without blocking or damaging appliance vents.
- ☐ Confirm batteries are charged, correctly connected and securely mounted.

FLUSH PLUMBING ANTIFREEZE

- ☐ Close drains and connect a known safe water supply through a suitable pressure regulator.
- ☐ Flush each hot and cold fixture until water runs clear and antifreeze colour and odour are gone.
- ☐ Flush the toilet, shower, exterior shower, spray hoses and every low-use fixture.
- ☐ Restore ice-maker, washer, dishwasher and refrigerator water systems as instructed.
- ☐ Reinstall or replace drinking-water filters only after the antifreeze has been flushed.
- ☐ Fill the fresh-water tank partly and test the onboard pump and pump strainer for leaks.

RESTORE THE WATER HEATER

- ☐ Confirm the drain opening, drain plug or serviceable anode rod is correctly installed.
- ☐ Inspect the pressure-relief valve area and water-heater compartment for damage.
- ☐ Return bypass valves to the normal operating position after flushing antifreeze from the lines.
- ☐ Fill the water heater completely and purge air from a hot faucet before enabling any heat source.
- ☐ Check the tank, fittings and drain opening carefully for leaks.

SANITIZE FRESH WATER SYSTEM

- ☐ Follow the RV manufacturer procedure and approved concentration for sanitizing the system.
- ☐ Include the fresh tank, pump, hot and cold lines and all fixtures as directed.
- ☐ Allow the sanitizing solution to remain for the specified contact time.
- ☐ Drain at an approved location and flush with potable water until acceptable.
- ☐ Do not mix household chemicals or use products not approved for potable-water systems.

DO NOT ENERGIZE THE WATER HEATER

- Verify the tank is full by obtaining a steady, air-free stream from a hot-water faucet.
- Stop and investigate immediately if water appears inside cabinets, compartments or beneath the RV.

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Test Utilities, Appliances and Safety Equipment

Repairs or supplies needed: _____

LEAK & PLUMBING TEST

- ☐ Pressurize with the pump and inspect every accessible fitting, fixture and compartment.
- ☐ Repeat the inspection using regulated city-water pressure.
- ☐ Check drains, traps, toilet seal, holding-tank valves and sewer termination for leaks.
- ☐ Verify tank monitors, water pump and water-heater operation after the system is full.
- ☐ Correct leaks before closing access panels or leaving the RV unattended.

PROPANE & APPLIANCES

- ☐ Inspect propane cylinders or tank mounting and accessible hoses for obvious damage.
- ☐ Open the supply valve slowly; stop immediately if propane is smelled or an alarm sounds.
- ☐ Have required propane leak and pressure testing performed by a qualified technician.
- ☐ Test the refrigerator, furnace, water heater, range and air conditioner as equipped.
- ☐ Stop using any appliance that produces soot, unusual odours, abnormal flame or repeated faults.

ELECTRICAL & BATTERIES

- ☐ Inspect the shore-power cord, plug, adapters and electrical-management system.
- ☐ Test the pedestal before connecting; turn its breaker off while making the connection.
- ☐ Confirm converter or charger operation and appropriate battery charging voltage.
- ☐ Test 12-volt lights, outlets, GFCI protection and accessible safety devices.
- ☐ Arrange qualified service for burned connections, recurring trips or abnormal heat.

SAFETY & ROAD READINESS

- ☐ Test smoke, carbon-monoxide and propane alarms; confirm service-life dates.
- ☐ Inspect the fire extinguisher and replace or service it as required.
- ☐ Restock first-aid, roadside, emergency and tool supplies.
- ☐ Test brakes, exterior lights, mirrors, cameras and hitch or tow equipment.
- ☐ Verify insurance, registration, roadside assistance and maintenance records.
- ☐ Complete the correct pre-trip checklist before the first journey.

OBTAIN PROFESSIONAL ASSISTANCE IF

- You smell propane, find significant water intrusion, see damaged wiring or discover brake or structural concerns.
- A safety device trips repeatedly or any appliance fails combustion or electrical checks.