

PRACTICAL RV BASICS

COLD-WEATHER STORAGE - Follow the RV and component manufacturers instructions

Prepare the RV and Drain the Water System

RV: _____ Date: _____ Expected low temperature: _____

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

- ☐ Read the RV, water-heater, refrigerator, washer and other appliance winterizing instructions.
- ☐ Choose the approved method: RV antifreeze, compressed air, or the manufacturer-specified combination.
- ☐ Use only non-toxic RV or marine plumbing antifreeze when antifreeze is required.
- ☐ Turn off water-heater propane and electric heating sources; allow the water to cool completely.
- ☐ Disconnect city water, turn off the water pump and relieve plumbing pressure.
- ☐ Remove or bypass water filters as directed; store reusable elements so they cannot freeze.

WATER HEATER

- ☐ Confirm all heating sources are off, water is cool and system pressure is relieved.
- ☐ Remove the drain plug or anode rod as applicable and drain the tank completely.
- ☐ Flush sediment if this is part of the seasonal maintenance schedule.
- ☐ Inspect the anode rod when equipped and replace it according to manufacturer limits.
- ☐ Place the water-heater bypass valves in the winterize position.
- ☐ Leave the drain opening configured exactly as the manufacturer directs for storage.

DRAIN FRESH WATER PLUMBING

- ☐ Drain the fresh-water tank at an approved location.
- ☐ Open hot and cold low-point drains and all faucets, including shower and exterior fixtures.
- ☐ Operate the toilet valve and any spray hose until water stops flowing.
- ☐ Drain the water-pump strainer and accessible plumbing components.
- ☐ Drain ice-maker, washer, dishwasher, refrigerator water and hydronic systems when equipped.
- ☐ Close drains and faucets only when required for the selected winterizing method.

HOLDING TANKS

- ☐ Empty and rinse the black and grey tanks at an approved dumping facility.
- ☐ Close the waste valves and install the sewer outlet cap.
- ☐ Drain or protect tank-flush lines, macerator equipment and exterior wash connections.
- ☐ Do not leave ordinary water or unapproved chemicals where they can freeze.

IMPORTANT

- Never energize an empty water heater or allow concentrated antifreeze into its tank unless specifically approved.
- Compressed-air pressure must not exceed the RV or component manufacturers limit.

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Protect the Plumbing and Prepare for Storage

Antifreeze brand/type: _____ Quantity used: _____

PROTECT PLUMBING LINES

- ☐ Connect the pump winterizing tube or approved antifreeze source as designed.
- ☐ Run the pump and open each fixture one at a time until protected fluid appears.
- ☐ Protect hot and cold sides of sinks, showers, exterior showers and low-point lines.
- ☐ Flush the toilet until protected fluid appears; protect spray hoses and valves.
- ☐ Follow separate procedures for ice makers, washers, dishwashers and refrigerator water systems.
- ☐ Pour enough RV antifreeze into each drain to protect traps; add only the approved amount to tanks.
- ☐ Turn the pump off and leave valves and faucets in the manufacturer-specified storage positions.

INTERIOR & APPLIANCES

- ☐ Clean and dry the refrigerator; leave doors secured open when the manufacturer recommends it.
- ☐ Remove perishables, liquids and products that can freeze or attract pests.
- ☐ Clean, dry and ventilate cabinets, bathroom and storage spaces.
- ☐ Turn off appliances and propane supply as required for storage.
- ☐ Test smoke, carbon-monoxide and propane alarms; replace expired devices as required.

EXTERIOR & ROOF

- ☐ Inspect roof seams, windows, doors, vents, mouldings and sealant for damage or separation.
- ☐ Clean and dry awnings; retract and secure them completely.
- ☐ Remove food, rubbish and items that attract pests; close approved pest entry points.
- ☐ Clean appliance vents without blocking required ventilation openings.
- ☐ Inflate tires to specification, inspect them and use approved support or positioning practices.
- ☐ Secure covers so they breathe and cannot abrade the RV finish.

BATTERIES & RECORDS

- ☐ Fully charge batteries and follow their manufacturer storage procedure.
- ☐ Disconnect, remove or maintain batteries with a compatible charger as appropriate.
- ☐ Protect terminals and check electrolyte only on serviceable flooded lead-acid batteries.
- ☐ Record work completed, products used, unresolved defects and the storage date.
- ☐ Inspect the stored RV periodically for pests, leaks, moisture, snow load and battery condition.

BEFORE FREEZING WEATHER

- Confirm every water-bearing appliance and accessory has been addressed.
- Label the water heater or control switch to prevent accidental operation while the tank is empty.