

Travel Trailer Winterization

CHECKLIST / Take the guide to your RV

RV make / model: _____ Date: _____

Method: _____ Heater / pump models: _____

- ☐ **01 Read the manuals**
Identify RV, heater and pump models; record the approved method and pressure limit.
- ☐ **02 Secure and shut down**
Chock wheels. Turn off heater energy sources; cool and depressurize before opening drains.
- ☐ **03 Empty holding tanks**
Use an approved dump station; clean black/gray tanks and protect valves as instructed.
- ☐ **04 Drain fresh water**
Disconnect city water; open fresh-tank and low-point drains according to the RV manual.
- ☐ **05 Prepare the water heater**
Drain and bypass a conventional tank; follow the exact tankless heater procedure.
- ☐ **06 Remove / bypass filters**
Drain housings, strainers and accessories; protect dedicated drinking-water branches.
- ☐ **07 Protect pump and supply lines**
Use the approved pickup method or pump drain procedure; city-inlet air may miss the pump.
- ☐ **08 Complete the chosen method**
Treat hot and cold branches, toilet valve, sprayers, outside shower and low points.
- ☐ **09 Check separate systems**
Winterize black-tank flush and specialty appliances using their own instructions.
- ☐ **10 Protect traps and toilet**
Use compatible RV antifreeze in each trap and toilet seal area in the specified amounts.
- ☐ **11 Set storage positions**
Disconnect air, release pressure, turn pump off; set drains/plugs/valves per manuals.
- ☐ **12 Record and label**
Mark heater OFF / system winterized. Log date, product, quantity, valve photos and next check.

SAFETY: Never use automotive coolant. Never open a hot or pressurized heater. Follow the lowest applicable manufacturer air-pressure limit. Do not dilute ready-to-use RV antifreeze. Do not drink winterized water.

Follow your RV and appliance manuals. This checklist supplements them.

Choose the procedure your manuals allow.

RV antifreeze method

Drain first. Prepare the heater and filters. Use a compatible pickup kit to feed approved RV/marine potable-plumbing antifreeze through the pump where permitted. Treat every applicable hot and cold outlet until the product reaches it at the required concentration. Account separately for inlet dead legs and appliances.

Compressed-air method

Drain first and prepare appliances. Use clean air, a suitable blowout adapter, regulator and gauge. Follow the lowest applicable RV, fitting or appliance pressure limit; do not copy a generic PSI setting. Follow the specified fixture sequence. Protect the pump, strainer and suction line separately. Traps and toilet seals may still need RV antifreeze.

Water heater: identify it first

A conventional tank normally needs draining and bypassing before antifreeze circulation. Bypass is not drainage. Tankless/on-demand units require their own procedure: some must be drained and isolated; others permit antifreeze. Never assume one brand's instructions apply to another.

Frequently missed

Outside shower and kitchen; toilet valve and sprayer; black-tank flush inlet, line and vacuum breaker; filter housings; pump strainer; drinking-water tap; washer, ice maker, dishwasher or macerator; shower hose; low-point drain stubs and city-water inlet.

Spring restart

Restore the specified fittings and valve positions, flush and sanitize as instructed, check for leaks, and install filters at the appropriate stage. Fill and purge a tank heater before enabling heat. Re-winterize before another freeze if you put the plumbing back into service.

Notes / exceptions / next inspection:
