

Drain the water heater by removing the drain plug (left photo) from the appliance. By adding a bypass valve (right), you can isolate the water heater from the rest of the fresh water system once it's drained.



WINTERIZING CHECKLIST

Exterior

- Thoroughly clean the exterior
- Examine the exterior and make needed repairs
- Inspect sealants around the roof accessories
- Make sure vents have protective screens
- Remove debris from the rooftop air conditioner(s); add covers
- Clean awnings
- Apply rubber roof protectant if applicable
- Lubricate all metal mechanical components on awnings and slideouts
- Wipe down all exposed hydraulic/electrical components on slideouts
- Open and close slideouts several times during the winter
- Clean, dry, and apply a rubber seal treatment to all slideout seals
- Protect tires with covers
- Remove spark plugs from the generator; apply a rust inhibitor into the cylinders; and reinstall plugs
- Clean all dirt and grime off the generator components
- Inspect the undercarriage and patch any cracks, separations, or openings into the storage bays
- Follow the manufacturer's suggested winterizing procedures for fluids, tanks, etc.

Fresh Water System

- Drain the water heater; reinstall the drain plug and snap the pressure and temperature relief valve shut
- Drain the fresh water tank
- Drain the hot and cold water lines
- Select the wet or dry method of winterizing the fresh water system

Dry Method

- Remove all moisture from the entire system, including the ice maker tubing, washer inlet hose, shower hose, water purifier, toilet vacuum breaker, etc.

Wet Method

- Add nontoxic RV antifreeze to the fresh water tank and use the onboard water pump (or a hand pump to backfill antifreeze through a kitchen or lavatory faucet) to distribute the antifreeze throughout the entire system; run all faucets and flush the toilet until antifreeze appears

Waste System

- Flush and clean the holding tanks
- Remove, disassemble, clean, and lubricate each termination valve, if necessary
- Inspect and replace bad seals
- Leave a shallow depth of water and antifreeze mixture in the holding tanks

- Pour antifreeze down the "P" traps

LP-Gas System

- Turn off all appliances and LP-gas detectors
- Close the LP-gas tank outlet valve
- Remove and store the regulator in a clean, dry location
- Plug the remaining openings in the hose and valve
- Empty and clean the refrigerator and freezer
- Place an open box of baking soda or other absorbent inside the refrigerator and freezer but leave the doors slightly ajar
- Cover the opening at the back of the refrigerator and the water heater door with cardboard
- Cover the fresh air inlet and furnace exhaust port with duct tape or aluminum foil
- Clean oven and stove burners
- Close any separate pilot valves
- Turn off the thermostat

Batteries

- Fully charge the batteries
- Remove house batteries and store in a clean, dry place if possible; or, disconnect and clean all battery terminals and spray each with a protectant or coat with petroleum jelly

- Make sure batteries are clean, dry, and free of dirt and acid buildup
- Remove all dry-cell batteries from clocks, radios, flashlights, and detectors

120-Volt AC System

- Unplug all 120-volt AC appliances
- Turn off the main breakers
- Clean and brighten the contacts on the shoreline cord and cover the plug end
- Make sure all electrical connections are clean, dry, and tight

Miscellaneous Machinations

- Thoroughly clean the coach interior
- Remove all food items, including canned goods and pet food
- Vacuum under cabinets and drawers
- Remove all personal items that contain liquids that may freeze
- Cover windows with cardboard or aluminum foil, or protect the entire coach with an RV cover
- Elevate the coach onto jack stands placed under the axles to take weight off the tires
- Remove heavy snow accumulation from the roof and from around the bottom of the coach