

RV Winterization Checklist

Difficulty: **Beginner** · Time: **1–2 hrs**

Date: _____ Vehicle / unit: _____ Mileage / hours: _____

SAFETY DISCLAIMER: General educational information only, not professional advice. Vehicle, marine, propane, fuel and electrical work can cause serious injury, death, fire or property damage. Follow your manufacturer's service manual, use rated jack stands, work ventilated and away from ignition sources, and call a qualified professional when in doubt.

Key safety warnings

- Use only RV/marine non-toxic antifreeze in potable systems — NEVER automotive antifreeze.
- Water heater must be OFF and cool before draining; hot water and pressure cause burns.
- Turn off LP and 12 V to the water heater before you start.

Tools & supplies

- ☐ RV antifreeze (pink, non-toxic)
- ☐ Water heater bypass kit
- ☐ Pump converter kit
- ☐ Blowout plug adapter
- ☐ Water heater anode/drain socket
- ☐ Nitrile gloves

Checklist

- ☐ Water heater off & cool
- ☐ Tanks dumped & flushed
- ☐ Low-point drains opened
- ☐ Water heater drained & bypassed
- ☐ Every faucet pink (hot & cold)
- ☐ Shower / outdoor shower / toilet done
- ☐ Traps filled
- ☐ Switch labeled

Step reference

1. Turn off the water heater (LP and electric) and let it cool. Open a faucet to relieve pressure.
2. Drain fresh tank, then gray and black tanks at a dump station; flush black tank.
3. Open low-point drains and the water heater drain plug/anode; open all faucets.
4. Close drains, put the water heater in bypass so it doesn't fill with antifreeze.
5. Connect the pump to antifreeze (converter kit) and run the pump.
6. Open each faucet, hot then cold, nearest to farthest, until pink flows. Don't forget the shower, outdoor shower, toilet and ice maker line (per manufacturer).
7. Pour a cup of antifreeze into each drain trap and the toilet.
8. Turn off the pump, leave the water heater drained and switched off, and label the switch 'WINTERIZED'.

Stop and call a pro if...

- Your rig has a washer, dishwasher, or complex manifold you're unsure about.
- You find leaks or cracked fittings.

Notes
