

WINTERIZING YOUR MOTOR HOME

- Your individual owner's manual will best address your specific vehicle.

Preparing Vehicle For Storage

Properly preparing your vehicle for storage will lessen the possibility of damage to your vehicle. Prepare the motor home for vacancy just as you would if you were leaving your home for an extended period.

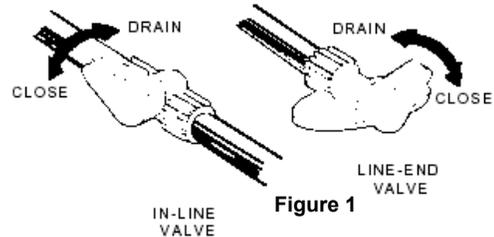
- Remove all perishables from cabinets and refrigerator
- Prop refrigerator door open
- Turn off LP gas tank
- Drain water heater water tank and holding tank
- Drain optional washer/dryer
- Close shades to protect upholstery from sunlight

When storing your vehicle through the winter or in cold climates, extra preparations need to be made to protect systems that can be damaged by freezing temperatures.

Cold Weather Storage Procedure (Winterizing)

1. Clean and dump holding tanks by following steps A, B and C.
 - A. Add water to the sewage holding tank by holding the toilet flush lever open with the water pump running. Add water to the wastewater holding tanks by opening the kitchen, shower and lavatory faucets. Tanks should be about 1/4 to 1/3 full to rinse properly. Driving to a disposal site will normally loosen and rinse any waste material from the sides of the tank.
 - B. Completely drain the sewage and waste holding tanks at an approved waste disposal site. Drain the sewage tank first so the following wastewater can rinse any waste solids from the dump outlet and sewer hose.
 - C. Close dump valves and refit the dust cap onto the drain outlet.
2. Level the motor home and drain the entire plumbing system as described in the following steps.
3. Open all drain valves (See water system drain valve chart in your manual for locations on your model). (See figure 1) Then turn on wash station showerhead and lay showerhead on ground to drain any water left in shower line.

- Also, place your finger into the city water inlet and gently press the backflow valve in the center of the inlet to drain any water left in the stub line.
4. Remove and discard the water purifier filter



cartridge (see figure 2).

- Raise the valve handle and turn the colored ring fully clockwise.
- Twist the filter cartridge counterclockwise about a quarter turn and pull down and out of the filter head.
- Place a container beneath the filter head and lower the valve handle to drain any water remaining the filter lines.



Figure 2 – Water Filler Assembly-Below Galley Sink

5. Install the antifreeze diverter plug.
 - Raise the valve handle and turn the colored ring fully clockwise.
 - Hold the diverter by the support bar as shown and guide it up into the filter head with bar end approximately centered in colored ring cutout.
 - Push diverter up into the head as far as possible and turn it clockwise approximately a quarter-turn.
 - Then turn colored ring fully counter clockwise. The diverter should be locked in position between the head and colored ring.

- Lower valve handle to lock colored ring in place.

Note: Before using again the following spring:

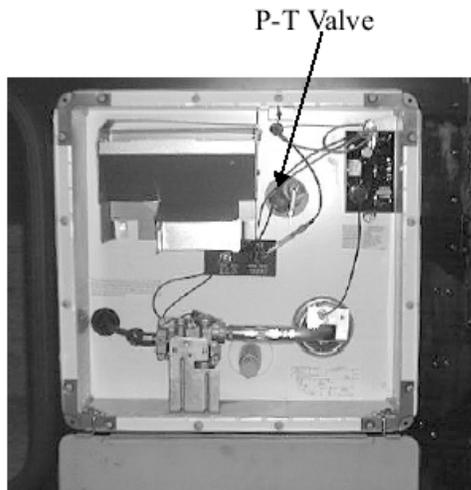
- Flush out the system with the diverter in place.
- After the system has been thoroughly flushed, remove the diverter and store for future use.
- Install a new water filter cartridge.

6. Turn the Water Pump switch ON to allow it to operate until you are done draining all faucets and toilet.

7. Open all faucets and showerhead valves, including exterior shower.

8. Operate the toilet flush lever and hold until water stops flowing in the toilet. Then turn water pump switch OFF.

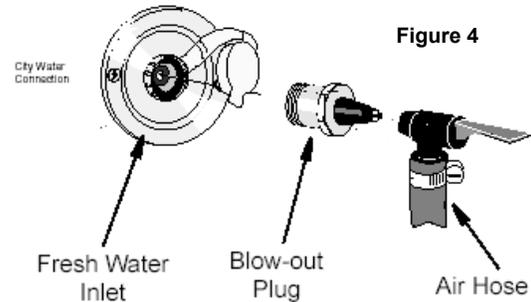
9. Turn off the water heater power switch before draining the water heater tank to avoid damage to the heating element. Drain the water heater by removing the plug from the base of the water heater tank, accessible from the outside of the coach. (Requires socket and ratchet.) Also open the Pressure-Temperature relief valve at the top right portion of the tank to prevent air locking in the tank while draining. (See Figure 3)



10. After water has stopped draining at all faucets and drain valves connect a “blow-out” plug to the city water connection on the coach. Then use a hand pump or air compressor regulated to 30 psi or less to force air through the system. (A “blow-out” plug can be purchased at any Winnebago or Itasca dealer. (P/N 70105-01-000) (See Figure 4)

CAUTION: Limit air pressure to 30 psi to avoid damage to pump or water lines. Note: DO NOT burst air into the system. This can damage the water pump. It is better to let air in slowly.

11. Let air flow for five minutes until water is completely drained out of faucets and drain valves. Then close faucets one at a time.



12. Operate and hold toilet flush lever until water is completely drained from the toilet.

13. Now turn air pressure off and disconnect water purge adapters. Recap the city water connection to avoid contamination by dirt or insects.

14. Close all drain valves and faucets to avoid contamination by the dirt or insects. Reinstall water heater drain plug and close P-T relief valve.

15. Pour about one cup of non-toxic RV antifreeze into the kitchen sink drain, bathroom sink drain and shower drain. This prevents and holding tank odors from entering the coach during storage.

WARNING: Never use automotive antifreeze/coolant in your RV water system. Auto antifreeze contains ethylene glycol which if ingested can cause blindness and can be fatal.

It is not necessary to add antifreeze to the toilet since the flush valve will be closed.

Do not add automotive antifreeze or caustic chemicals such as bleach or laundry detergents into the toilet bowl or holding tank. Although these products may have a deodorizing effect, they may damage plastic and rubber parts in the system.

NOTE: As an alternative to totally draining the plumbing system, you may winterize tanks and lines by pumping non-toxic RV antifreeze through the system. This product is available from your dealer and from most RV supply stores. Follow directions on the container to determine the correct amount to use for your coach.

See “RV Antifreeze Water Line Winterization Systems” in your owner’s manual for instructions on injecting RV antifreeze into water lines.

If your coach is equipped with the optional water heater by-pass valve, you can fill the hot water lines with antifreeze solutions without filling the water heater tank. See your owner’s manual for information on the by-pass valve.

CAUTION: Leave by-pass valve handle in NORMAL FLOW position if draining water and blowing out water lines. Place in BY-PASS position ONLY when using antifreeze solution in water lines.

16. Place a bucket beneath the sewage drain valve outlet and re-drain the sewage and waste holding tanks of any clean water that entered during “blow-out” procedure.

Close dump valves to prevent valve shafts from rusting and to prevent entry by rodents and insects. Refit the dust cap onto the drain outlet.

Your drainage and fresh water systems are not totally winterized.

17. Have the vehicle chassis completely serviced and lubricated. Be sure radiator antifreeze protection level is sufficient for the lowest anticipated temperatures.

18. Wash and wax the coach.

19. Inspect all seams and seals around doors, windows, vents and any other joints. Replace or repair any that are damaged. Sealing materials and compounds can be purchased from your dealer. Badly damaged weather seals may need to be replaced by your dealer.

20. Close all windows and roof vents. Protect all appliance vent openings from contamination by animals or insects (e.g. bird nests, wasp nests, etc.).

21. Lubricate all door hinges and locks.

22. Clean interior of the coach. Dirt and stains are most easily removed when fresh.

23. Remove all food and items that may cause odors.

24. Clean and defrost the refrigerator. Leave the door slightly ajar to allow any odors to dissipate. Place an open box of baking soda inside the refrigerator to help absorb odors.

25. Turn the furnace thermostat switch on the bottom of the thermostat to OFF.

26. Turn auxiliary battery (Aux Batt) switch off. If your coach does not have an Aux Batt switch, disconnect all chassis and auxiliary battery cables.

27. Fully charge batteries.

28. Batteries must be kept to at least 80 percent charge to keep from freezing or sulfating. We recommend that you connect a battery charger and fully charge batteries at least once a month during long-term storage periods to maintain charge at 80 percent or greater. Turn Aux Batt switch off to avoid electrical arcing when attaching and detaching charger clamps.

Washer/dryer winterizing

1. Turn off the hot and cold water faucets to the machine and disconnect the hoses. (Tie or wire up the hoses to the faucets to keep them from dropping down behind the machine.)

2. Set the machine to fill on regular cycle and WARM wash.

3. Turn the machine ON for a few minutes so it can take in any water left in the hoses. (Lift the

hoses at this time to be sure no water is trapped in low spots of the hose.)

4. Turn the machine off.

5. Advance the wash time to SPIN cycle and turn the machine ON to pump out as much water as possible.

6. Turn the machine OFF again.

7. Place a bath towel or shallow container beneath the drain/lint filter door on the lower front of the machine to catch water. Then remove the filter to drain any water left in the bottom of the machine.

8. Reinstall the filter correctly to assure that it does not leak water.

9. Optional – if you wish to add RV antifreeze to ensure safety of the washer pump, add about a gallon of non-toxic RV water system antifreeze to the washer drum and re-run the SPIN cycle to fill the pump and lower cavities with the solution.

10. Turn the machine OFF.

Washer/dryer winterizing is now complete.

NOTE: Remember to reconnect the washer supply hoses when placing the washing machine back into service. Then run the machine through the fill/spin cycle (steps 2-6 above) to remove and rinse the RV antifreeze from the machine.

Dishwasher winterization

- Empty all dishes from the dishwasher
- Follow coach winterization instructions for using the winterization valve to draw RV water system antifreeze into the water system so antifreeze can enter the dishwasher.
- Set the dishwasher controls to the start of the rinse cycle and run briefly until antifreeze can be seen inside the dishwasher.
- Set the controls to the end of the rinse cycle to pump the liquid out of the dishwasher to make sure the lines and pump contain antifreeze.
- Turn dishwasher controls to OFF.
- Pour about a quart of RV water system antifreeze directly into the dishwasher to ensure protection of pump and drain lines.
- Dishwasher is now winterized.

NOTE: We do not recommend leaving the shoreline plugged in continuously during storage periods because the batteries can lose electrolytic fluids and become damaged from continuous charging without periodic use.

We recommend following regular battery inspection and maintenance, especially in cold weather. See “Battery Maintenance” in Section 6 – Electrical Systems.