

RV Winterization Checklist

Use this checklist to properly winterize your RV water system and plumbing before freezing temperatures hit. Protect your pipes, tanks, and water heater from costly damage. Always refer to your RV's manual for model-specific steps.

1. Preparation

- Gather RV antifreeze (non-toxic, pink type for potable water systems).
- Turn off the water heater and let it cool completely.
- Disconnect or turn off the city water connection.
- Drain the freshwater tank and black/gray holding tanks.
- Open all faucets to relieve system pressure.

2. Drain & Bypass the Water Heater

- Remove the drain plug or anode rod to empty the water heater.
- Open the pressure relief valve to help draining.
- Install or turn valves to activate the water heater bypass system.
- Ensure no antifreeze enters the water heater.

3. Drain the Plumbing System

- Use the low-point drains to empty hot and cold water lines.
- Flush the toilet and shower until no water remains.
- Blow out lines with compressed air (optional, 30–40 PSI max).

4. Pump Antifreeze Through the System

- Locate the winterization inlet or insert a pickup tube into the antifreeze container.
- Set the water pump to draw from the antifreeze source.
- Open each faucet (hot and cold) one at a time until pink antifreeze flows.
- Don't forget outside showers, low-point drains, and ice makers if equipped.

5. Final Steps

- Pour 1–2 cups of antifreeze into each drain and toilet bowl.
- Check all faucets and fittings for leaks or missed lines.
- Turn off the pump and close all faucets.
- Label the system as 'Winterized' and store antifreeze bottles for next season.

Tip: When spring arrives, flush the system thoroughly with fresh water before refilling your water heater or drinking from any faucet.