

Winterizing Your Trailer and Storage Ideas

Basically winterizing is getting the water out of the pipes and tanks so that when it gets cold enough to freeze water, your unit won't be damaged from the expanding ice.

There is more to winterizing an Airstream than just getting the water out of the pipes, like battery storage etc. , but protecting the plumbing system from freezing is where we begin.

First Dumping Tanks

Dump All Holding Tanks and Flush



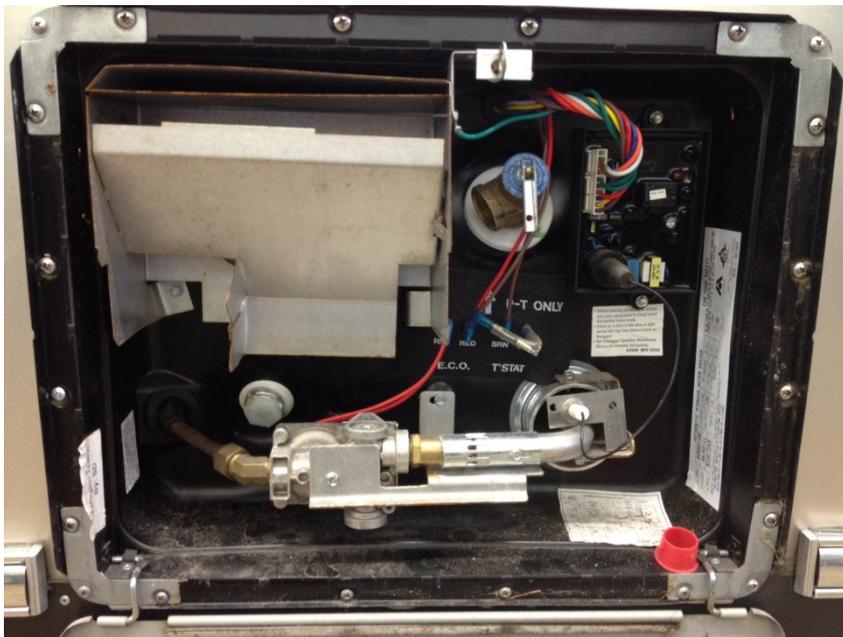
Open Fresh Water Tank Drain



Low Point Drains



Drain Water Heater

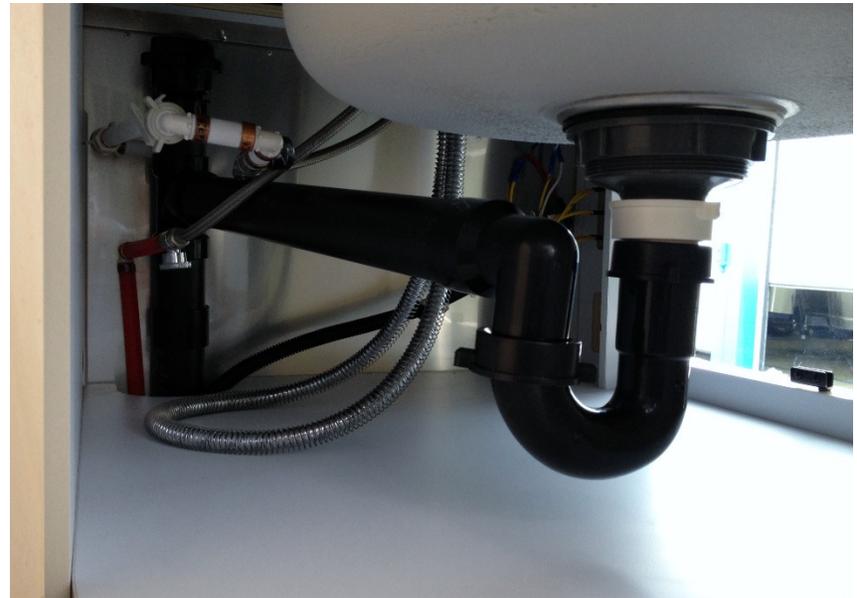


Water Heater Drain Plug

Turn On Water Heater Bypass



Remove Water Filter



Winterizing With Antifreeze

Winterize Kit



Propylene Ethanol Blend



Choices of RV anti-freeze

There are several choices of RV anti-freeze on the market that you can use to winterize your trailer and all three provide adequate freeze protection when used according to label instructions. There are different levels of freeze protection and you will want to pick one based on your areas average winter temperatures.

Propylene Glycol based: This type of anti-freeze is non-flammable, non-toxic and safe for all RV plumbing. Propylene glycol is a lubricant and will actually work to extend the life of the seals in your faucets and valves.
In my opinion this type of anti-freeze is the safest to use if you are pumping anti-freeze through the entire plumbing system.

Propylene/Ethanol Blend: This product is non-toxic and generally safe for RV plumbing systems. However, it is unknown what concentration of ethanol it would take to cause any unpleasant tastes or smells in RV plumbing systems and or dry out plumbing seals.
I would use this type of anti-freeze when blowing out the plumbing system with air, the anti-freeze would only be used in p-traps, toilet and tank drain valves etc.

Ethanol (alcohol) based: Ethanol is extremely flammable; and has been known to cause unpleasant smells or taste in plumbing systems and should only be used with certain types of water lines, such as Pex tubing.
Since it is made from alcohol, it can dry out the rubber seals that are used in faucets and gate valves. I would only use this type of anti-freeze when blowing out the plumbing system with air, the anti-freeze would only be used in p-traps, toilet and tank drain valves etc.

(Never use automotive anti-freeze in your RV plumbing system! It is Highly Toxic and requires proper disposal.)

Always read the label before using any RV anti-freeze and follow listed directions.

Winterizing With Air



Remove Water Lines From Pump and Purge.



Add 1 Cup Antifreeze to all P-Traps, and Toilet Valve If Winterizing With Air



Some quick winter storage reminders.

- Shut off the propane at the tank/tanks.
- Make sure that your tires are properly inflated, clean and covered to protect from UV rays. Sun and air pollutants can also cause deterioration of the rubber compound, causing dry-rot in your tires.
- Apply dielectric grease to 7 way cord connections to prevent corrosion while in storage.
- Remove any water filters before winterizing and install filter plug or by-pass line. You will not be able to remove all of the water from the filter when using air to winterize and you do not want them full of RV antifreeze if you are using it to fill and protect water lines.
- If your water heater is gas and electric make sure the electric heating element is turned off. This will protect the element if the unit is plugged in while being stored or before water is put back into system next spring.

- Leave the fridge and freezer doors open. To help dry out the refrigerator and freezer compartments prior to storage, crumple up newspaper and put in freezer and lower refrigerator compartment for 24 to 48 hours to absorb moisture and then remove papers.
- Remove all food items, paper and cardboard from closets and cabinets. We don't want to encourage winter guests (rodents).
- Leave cabinet, closet and cabinet doors open when storing for better circulation and humidity control.
- Wash your Airstream before storing, especially the roof. Washing the roof will let you inspect for any water leaks, loose or cracked sealants or any damage to AC covers or vents. If you see anything damaged or looks questionable get it corrected before putting in storage.
- Lubricate all joints, pivot points and gears on your steps and stabilizer jacks.

Batteries Storage for Winter

- **Should I remove my batteries from my Airstream for the winter?**
- Batteries will last longer if kept charged, and having the battery stored in a garage or workshop makes monitoring and charging the battery/batteries easier. Removing the battery also gives you the opportunity to have your battery tested (load tested at battery supplier) and inspected for any damage to the battery case (leaking fluid or bulging sides).
- You will also want to check fluid levels and fill as necessary with distilled water so top of plates are covered.
- It is also a good time to inspect battery terminals and cable ends for corrosion. Clean them with a wire brush and apply a protective coating to battery posts and cable ends.
- You can leave the batteries in your Airstream when storing if you keep them charged, this will require plugging unit in or hooking up to a charger at least monthly. Batteries should be fully charged when placed in storage and maintained to keep batteries from freezing.
- *Airstream does not recommend leaving unit plugged in when in storage.*

Store Trailer On Gravel or Concrete

- Helps Protect Tires Better From Moisture
- Keep Tires Fully Inflated
- Parking in an area with tall grass or a wooded area can lead to unwanted visitors
- Never store where overhanging tree branches can fall
- Store in an area that you can keep an eye on trailer

Washing the Exterior

Washing and waxing tips



DON'TS

- Leave window and vents open.
- Wash Trailer When Skin Is Hot
- Use abrasive cleaners
- Use Chlorine Products
- Hard Bristle Brushes
- Wipe against grain
- Forget to Pre-wash
- Use Pressure Washers closer than 30" & above 2500 PSIG with less than 40 degree fan tip

Pre-wash Exterior

Getting Ready

- CLOSE VENTS, DOORS, WINDOWS and RANGE EXHAUST FLAP
- Rinse exterior to remove debris that may scratch surface

Important areas

- Don't forget roof and underside
 1. Start at roof and work down
 2. Be careful and practice ladder safety
- Now is a great time to inspect for leaks
- and other damage to roof or underside.



Tools

Soft Mitt



Soft Bristle Brush



Always wash with the grain of the metal

Two Best Selling Waxes



Glare

Glare Professional Polish is a non-stick, high gloss, all-weather, temperature flexible sealant.



This Polish contains no waxes, polymers, or resins. (Glassplexin)

1. these type of ingredients (waxes) and chemicals have very low melting points and do not filter out UV solar rays.

GLARE actually bonds to your vehicle's paint through a chemical bonding and will hold up to regular washing

If you do not enjoy waxing this may be for you. Once a year after initial application.



RV SUPER SEAL

Safe For All For Coated Aluminum

RV SUPER SEAL is an original formula containing a combination of cleaning, polishing, and glazing ingredients.

- Is safe for all types of finishes.
- Provides easy cleaning and polishing action while providing a reflective, water-proof, glaze and finish.
- Quickly and easily removes traffic film and spots.
- The finish is long lasting and detergent resistant. It can be used on chrome and glass.



CLEANER POLISH & GLAZE

For Uncoated Aluminum

CLEANER POLISH & GLAZE is an original formula containing a combination of cleaning, polishing, and glazing ingredients. It provides easy cleaning and polishing action and provides a reflective , water-proof, glaze finish.

WALBERNIZE quickly and easily removes oxidized pigment, traffic film and spots of road oil or tar.

WALBERNIZE glaze finish is long lasting and detergent resistant.

It can be used on chrome and glass.

Not recommended for clear coat finishes.