



WINTERIZING YOUR AIRSTREAM TRAILER

Russ Fuller 1745

TOOLS YOU'LL NEED

- Adjustable wrench or Open-end wrenches
- Stink Slinky and dump station
- Non-Potable water hose
- Air compressor
- Blowout plug adaptor.
- RV/Marine-grade antifreeze (not automotive)
- Pump pick up tube or winterization kit.
- Screwdriver or screw gun
- Flea and tick collar
- Baking soda
- Wooden blocks (optional)
- Locks (optional)
- Peppermint oil and cotton balls (optional)
- Vacuum sealed storage bags (optional)

STEP-BY-STEP

- 1) Clean and Inspect Interior and Exterior. Make sure you clean your RV inside and out before putting it in storage, so you are ready to hit the road in the spring. Cleaning your RV before storing it for the winter also helps prevent unwanted pests from making a home.
 - a) Removing extra clothing and bedding will help avoid moths. Some people store these items in vacuum sealed bags.
 - b) Remove all containers containing fluids that may freeze and leak.
 - c) Remove all food will help keep rodents out.
 - d) Check the inside of the oven and microwave for and food.
 - e) If you have been in humid climates, keep an eye out for any signs of mold. Even a couple of small white dots of mold can grow into a big problem if left in storage.
 - f) Make sure your fridge is off, empty, defrosted, cleaned, and completely dry.
 - g) Place an open, fresh box of baking soda inside your fridge and keep the door slightly open.
 - h) The use of peppermint oil on cotton balls may help protect against rodents.
 - i) Are all the trash cans emptied and trash removed?
- 2) Drain and Clean Wastewater Tanks - The last dump day of the season. It is bittersweet. Go through the motions as you would on any other dump day.
 - a) If you have a black tank flush, let it run for a while until the water runs clear through your waste hose.
 - b) Run the black tank flush with the valve open for 5 minutes.
 - c) Run the black tank flush with the valve closed for 5 minutes (~1 minute for every 9 gallons of black capacity)
 - d) Run the black tank flush with the valve open for 5 minutes one last time.
 - e) Sticking a hose down your toilet is an alternative if you don't have a black tank flush. While the toilet method doesn't work quite as well, you can still help break up anything that is stuck down there.
- 3) Park your trailer on pavement if possible. If not drive the tires onto wooden blocks for the off season.
- 4) Disconnect Batteries. Batteries (especially lead acid batteries) should not be allowed to drop to 0% charge. While you might think that turning all of your lights and water pump off will allow your batteries to stay fresh, even a little trickle of static electricity will drain your batteries after a few months.
 - a) Most Airstreams have a battery disconnect switch that you twist to shut off most of the power coming from your batteries.
 - b) If you do not have a disconnect switch, you can simply unhook (and tape off) the cables from your batteries for storage.
 - c) If you are storing your RV somewhere where temperatures frequently drop below 0°F, you should consider removing your batteries and storing them inside.



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- 5) Disconnect Solar Panels. If you have solar panels on your travel trailer, it is a good idea to disconnect them from your system to avoid any hot wires.
- 6) Turn off your propane tanks in case a leak develops over the winter.
- 7) Drain the water heater via access valve on the outside of the RV.
- 8) Drain Fresh Water Tank and Water Lines.
 - a) Open low-point drains, typically found underneath your vehicle.
 - b) Open all hot and cold faucets, including the outside shower, if you have one.
 - c) Open the freshwater tank drain valve on your RV's undercarriage often near the axle(s).
 - d) Turn off all faucets that you opened in Step 3.
 - e) Find your city water connection. Connect the blowout plug adapter and the compressor to the connection – set the compressor at 45psi and turn it on.
 - f) One tap at a time, turn on each faucet and keep open until no water is running before moving on to the next.
 - g) Repeat one or more times at each faucet until no water is being expelled.
 - h) Remove air compressor from city water connection.
 - i) Turn the water heater bypass valve to "on" or "winterize" Depending on the trailer, this is typically found on or near the back of the water heater.
 - j) Locate the water pump. Connect the anti-freeze to the pump via pick-up tube or if equipped use the winterization valve and tube. Open each faucet and flush the toilet(s) until pink anti-freeze is flowing through the line.
- 9) Protect your gas appliances against spiders. Using a flea and tick collar cut into 3 to 4 inch sections wrap these around the gas burners near the gas valve.
- 10) Consider physical security and lock all compartment, doors, windows, and possible LPG tank, wheels, and hitch components.