

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.

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.

Flo-Jet macerator Model series 18550-300C

Winterization of the Flo-Jet macerator pump and flexible drain hose used in our Airstream NCV3 Interstate van. Winterization: It will take an approximate 2 gallons of RV antifreeze for the winterization of your plumbing drain lines, your macerator and the flexible discharge line.

Step one: Pour 1 gallon of antifreeze into the sinks in bath and galley of your Interstate. This will provide protection for any water left in drain lines as well as the dump valve.

Step two: Pour 1 gallon of antifreeze into the black tank through the toilet bowl.

Step three: Pull the flexible dump hose out and open the valve to allow the antifreeze to come out when pump is activated. **Step four:** Open the black dump valve, then turn on the macerator pump and let run until you have a flow of antifreeze coming out the drain hose. Turn off macerator pump, then close the black tank drain valve and the valve at end of the flexible drain hose.

Step five: Open grey tank dump valve to verify you have antifreeze in the valve then close again.

By using the two gallons of antifreeze, you are assuring that the drain lines and valves have been protected.