

De-Winterizing your Airstream

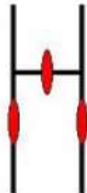
You are planning your first trip of the spring, so how do you make sure your Airstream is ready?

The process will vary somewhat depending on how you went about getting it ready for winter. You are going to want to check more than just the plumbing system. Here are some things to consider:

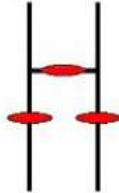
- If you have removed the batteries, you will want to make sure they have been charged and reinstalled.
- Plug your Airstream into 110 volt so you will be able to power up the system to operate lights, control panel and appliances etc.
 - Check power cord and ends
- Get plumbing system ready - the plan is to run fresh water through all pipes, faucets, water heater and into the gray & black tanks.
 - Make sure all low point drain valves are closed.
 - If your system has a bypass set up for the water heater it should have been put in the bypass mode to winterize; set the valve positions to the normal operating mode.
- If you have a filter under galley, reinstall or replace with a new one.
- If you have loosened any hoses at pump or the pump guard last fall, make sure they have been reinstalled and tightened.
- Make sure water heater drain plug is in place and pop off valve is closed.
- Hook hose to the city water connection and turn on water.
- Check under trailer for any water that may be coming out (for leaks or valve not closed).
- Open the faucet in the galley and run the water until you see clear water (if you have used anti-freeze in the system air to winterize) and sputtering stops (air in lines). Do the same for the bath faucets, shower and toilet.
- Turn off water and relieve system pressure by opening a faucet; then remove the drain plug at the water heater and close the faucet, turn water back on and flush for a minute to help clean it

Valves should be set to one of the following two configurations.

Summer setting



Winter setting



out. Then turn off water and let water drain for 30 seconds and reinstall plug; this will put an air pocket at top of water heater so pop off valve operates properly.

- Now with sewer cap on and water in black and gray tank verify dump valve operation. Check to see if sewer cap is leaking. (Have a bucket available when you remove sewer cap).
 - Make sure fresh tank drain valve operates and is closed, then fill the fresh water tank half full- then add a $\frac{3}{4}$ cup of bleach or some bleach tablets then fill tank. (You may want to drive around the block to agitate mixture). Let stand for 3-4 hours then flush with fresh water.
4. Make sure propane tanks are full.
 5. Check operation of appliances
 - Before lighting the refrigerator, water heater or furnace, you will want to make sure the exterior vents and burner tubes are free from bugs, nests or other debris. Compressed air or specific cleaning brushes can aid the process.
 - Check burners on stove top - clean and make sure burners and gas tubes are in place.
 - Your propane system will have air in the lines when you first turn the gas bottles on, the best place to start

- when removing air from the lines is the stove top. Turn on burner and use igniter.
6. Check exterior for damage that may have happened over winter, roof, AC shroud, vents and other covers.
 - If there are any bird droppings or tree sap you will want to get them removed and apply a good coat of wax.
 7. Verify operation of all vents and windows - clean and lubricate as necessary.
 8. Check tire pressures, including spare.
 9. How old are the tires? Check manufacturing dates on the tires.
 10. Clean and lubricate the hitch ball.
 11. Check safety chains and brake away cable.
 12. Lights and brakes tested and working properly.
 13. Check seven way cord for cracks in the plug and cord.
 14. Preventive maintenance list?
 - Anything leftover from last fall that you said you would take care of later? Bearings, brakes, spare key, spare uses or light bulbs?

While this is not a complete list, it will definitely be a good start for when warm weather finally gets here.