

No Hot Water and/or No Water Flow

This time of year we get many calls and emails in two plumbing areas:

1. I am not getting any hot water (The water heater lights and then turns off).
2. I am not getting any or just limited water flow from my kitchen faucet (or bathroom faucet or shower, etc.).

When we winterized our RVs (or had a dealer do it) most RVs have bypass valves, which take the water heater out of the plumbing system. This significantly reduces the amount of antifreeze (several gallons) that is needed when winterizing. Make sure that the heater bypass valves are reset to the operating position before turning on the heater. There are two valves each of them having two positions. When they are both in the winterize position, the water goes through a short bypass line. In their operating position the water goes through the water heater. If they are in the bypass (winterize) position the water heater will turn on and then immediately shut off.

During long periods when our RVs are not being used deposits build up in the aerator that is used on each faucet. This is particularly true during the winter months. The symptom of no or limited water flow from any faucet is usually due to a build-up of lime deposits in the aerators. These should be cleaned every few months and as part of your winterization procedure. They can be removed by screwing in a clockwise direction. You may have to use pliers to remove the aerator; however, you should re-install it by hand. Make sure the washer seal is in good shape. If it will not seal correctly just change the aerator. Shower heads also tend to clog up and should be cleaned as well when we are doing the aerators.