

I hope you have all had a great month! We are all so busy here at the factory that the time is still just flying by. Last month I touched on winterizing your trailer and this month, I will touch on storage tips for storing your trailer. I hate writing about these topics as it only means one thing. Winter is approaching quickly!!

## 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 the 7 way cord connections to prevent corrosion while in storage.
- Remove any water filters before winterizing and install a filter plug or bypass 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 the filter full of RV antifreeze if you are using that method to fill and protect your 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 the 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 the freezer and lower refrigerator compartment for 24 to 48 hours to absorb moisture and then remove the papers.
- Open boxes of baking soda may be placed into the compartments to help eliminate odors during storage.
- Leave cabinet and closet doors open when storing for better circulation and humidity control.
- Remove all food items, paper and cardboard, from closets and cabinets. We don't want to encourage winter guests (rodents)!
- 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 the unit in storage.
- Lubricate all joints, pivot points and gears on your steps and stabilizer jacks.

## Battery 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 a battery supplier) and inspected for any damage to the battery case (leaking fluid or bulging sides).
- You will also want to check fluid levels in the batteries and fill as necessary with distilled water so the tops of the plates are covered. Only on Lead Acid batteries. Gel or Glass Mat batteries do not require this check.
- 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 the unit in or hooking up to a charger a least monthly. Batteries should be fully charged when placed in storage and maintained to keep batteries from freezing.
- Airstream does not recommend leaving your unit plugged in full time when in storage. If a battery were to fail, then the converter would try to charge it back up and boil down the liquid in both batteries.

## Store Trailer on Gravel or Concrete

- Helps better protect the tires 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 where you can keep an eye on your trailer.

I would love to hear from you and if you have a suggestion or topic you would like to see covered in a future article, or have a question just drop me a line at [rmarch@airstream.com](mailto:rmarch@airstream.com).