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INSURANCE™**

## Winterizing Tips for your RV

As we approach winter, many of you are heading south to enjoy the sunshine and warm weather and avoid the snow and cold temperatures. For others, you are done with your summer travels and are getting ready to store your RV for the winter months. If you fall in the second category, here are some important items to consider before putting your RV in storage.

- Drain all water from the fresh water system. Open low point valves for both hot & cold water.
- Drain fresh water storage tank and water heater.
- Don't forget water lines to the ice maker, clothes washer, exterior faucets and showerheads, toilet, shower hose and water purifier.
- SPECIAL NOTE: Only use RV plumbing system antifreeze to winterize your piping. This antifreeze is non-toxic and designed for this purpose. Automotive antifreeze contains Ethylene Glycol – toxic to humans and pets – as well as other chemical agents in the mix.
- Be sure to follow the manufacturer's instructions for winterizing appliances or refer the process to an RV service shop if you are uncomfortable.
- Remove all food stuffs from the RV. Most canned or bottled food will freeze, and the rest is welcome food for mice, chipmunks, rats, etc.
- Empty and clean the refrigerator thoroughly and leave it cracked open to prevent mildew.
- Clean the whole RV inside and out and make sure everything is dry inside.
- Clean and examine the roof for sealant wear or other damage and repair it. Slide outs and their seals should also be cleaned and examined.
- Always turn off the LP-gas container at the container valve. Fill up the container to capacity prior to storage so less likely to form condensation on tank walls (full is usually 80% of capacity – be sure to refer to manufacturer's instructions).
- Clean and service water heater, refrigerator, furnace, stovetop and oven and completely turn them off.
- Clean and dry awning(s) before storing.
- If you are storing your RV without leaving electrical power hooked up to it for charging, the batteries need to be removed and stored inside a warm area and up off the floor.
- Disconnect, clean and protect each battery post and all wire connections at battery terminals for all batteries that cannot be removed.
- Unplug all 120-volt devices such as TV, microwave, refrigerator, electronics, etc.

□ Tires should be clean and kept off the ground for storage. If you can take the weight off them and suspend the RV on jacks, that is ideal. Otherwise, put on boards, treat with tire treatment and cover with tire covers.

The primary reason for winterization is to prevent damage that can be caused by the elements and keep the RV in tip top shape for next Spring.

If you feel uncertain about any of the processes for winterization, please consult the manufacturer's manual or use the services provided by the professionals at your local RV dealership.

*If you have any questions on RV Specialty Insurance, please contact Thum Insurance Agency at 1-800-866-0777. Office hours are 8:00 am to 6:00 pm Eastern Time, Monday through Friday.*

*Thum Insurance Agency, L.L.C. has provided personalized RV insurance packages for RVers since 1990.*

Coverages may vary by state and company. Coverages are controlled by the policies issued and are not modified, extended or revised by the descriptions contained herein.