

How To Guide

2016 210 Popular



HOW TO: Water System Winterizing

Do you really need to winterize?



If your Roadtrek is going to remain heated to comfortable temperatures, and the temperatures during the day are well above freezing (above 40 deg. F or above 4 deg. C) and the forecast is for temperatures just below freezing for a few hours at night with calm winds, then you don't need to winterize. The heat in your Roadtrek is enough to keep the lines from freezing.



If the forecast is for extended cold periods, with daytime temperatures at or below freezing, if you're not heating your Roadtrek, or if you expect sustained winds and the roads and ground is already frozen, you need to winterize.



As always, you are final judge and you need to do what is comfortable and makes you feel good. If you are not comfortable with leaving water in your lines when it gets cold, and you will sleep better, go ahead and winterize.

How to Winterize Using Anti-freeze

This procedure can be done in less an hour with only one specialized tool, a 1-1/16 inch (27 mm) socket and a ratchet or breaker bar.

- Get 2-3 gallons of RV antifreeze.

✗ DO NOT use automotive antifreeze. RV antifreeze is non-toxic and safe for potable water lines.

- Dump and rinse the gray and black tanks if they are not already empty.
- Turn off the water pump and open your single lever galley faucet, putting it in the middle halfway between the hot and cold settings.
- Drain the fresh water tanks by opening the black tank isolator valve on the water line connecting the two fresh water tanks (in the water valve enclosure under the diver's side bench, on the floor), and opening the drain for the exterior tank under the driver's door. Let this drain for at least 30 minutes. Close the valve between the tanks and the drain for the exterior tank.



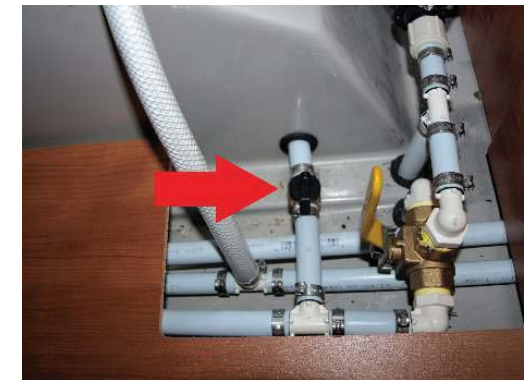
Typical non-toxic RV antifreeze



Water heater enclosure



Freshwater tank drain valve, shown closed



Location of the tank isolator valve shown in the open (i.e. tanks connected) position; note valve is in-line with pipe

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- Switch the plastic covered tank selector lever to the interior tank position (handle vertical), and turn the water pump back on. Put the galley faucet in the cold position, and open it. If the interior tank is empty, the open galley sink faucet should sputter. If it emits a steady stream of water, the tank is not empty. You will need to run the water until it is empty, either catching it in a container and throwing it outside, or running it down the sink and re-dumping the gray water tank. Do so if necessary, and then turn the water pump off. Return the galley sink lever to its open position halfway between hot and cold.



Tank selector lever in the interior (vertical) position



Tank selector lever in the exterior (horizontal) position

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- Make sure the water heater is turned off on the control panel switch. Go outside and take the cover off the water heater. Pop open the pressure relief valve at the top of the water heater. A small amount of water might flow out.

✗ If water is gushing out continuously, STOP! Go back to the beginning of this guide. DO NOT remove the anode rod until you figure out what's going on. You either left the water pump on, or you are hooked up to city water.



Water heater cover removal (turn tab vertically to remove cover)



Water heater pressure relief valve

- Drain the water heater by removing the anode rod. You will need a 1-1/16" socket and a ratchet or breaker bar.

⚠ This is a good time to rinse out the water heater and inspect the anode rod. If the anode rod looks spongy or all that is left is a rusty iron rod, throw it away and buy and install a new anode rod. Use teflon tape on the threads to reinstall the anode rod. Do not overtighten.



Water Heater Anode



Water heater anode with some corrosion, but probably cleanable and usable for another year.



Water heater bypass valves in the unwinterized, normal position



Water heater bypass valves in the bypass position

- The water heater bypass valves are in the cabinet under the sink, on the left wall. Set the valves to the by-pass position (see photo). The “middle valve” (the one on the horizontal water line connecting the two vertical lines) should be turned in line with the tubing. All handles should have been pointing vertically in the normal, summer use position. Turn each handle 90 degrees to a horizontal position to achieve the bypass position.
- Check to be sure that the fresh water drain on the exterior tank and the black and gray tank valves are all closed. Move the single lever galley faucet all the way to the cold side, and leave it open.
- Add 1 1/2 gallons of non-toxic RV approved antifreeze to the interior tank, and 1/2 gallon to the exterior tank through the gravity fill. Use a funnel and wash any spillage off the paint. Put the tank selector switch in the exterior tank position (handle horizontal, pointed toward driver's side of vehicle).
- Turn the water pump on and allow to prime. Close cold galley sink faucet once you see pink antifreeze coming out. Switch the plastic covered tank selector handle to the interior tank position.
- Move the single lever galley faucet to the hot side, and run until you see pink antifreeze come out. Open both hot and cold faucets in the bathroom sink. Open the toilet valve. Open the hot and cold faucets on the outside shower. Leave the outside shower valves open, or open them if you were in winter mode. Observe the antifreeze flow through all fixtures, then close each fixture. Ensure antifreeze flows into all P-traps (galley sink, washroom sink, and shower). You may also consider adding antifreeze from the extra gallon in the container jug to the shower floor-pan trap.



Valves for outside shower lines, shown open



Valves for outside shower lines, shown closed

- If the water pump loses its prime in this process, add more antifreeze to the interior fresh water tank.
- Open the grey and black waste tank valves, and operate the waste water discharge pump for about 10 seconds. You should see pink antifreeze coming out of the waste water discharge hose.



City water connection valve, shown closed



Water pump filter, inside water heater enclosure

- Turn the city water connection valve on. The water pump will operate. Allow it to run about 20 seconds. Turn city water connection valve off.
- Turn the water pump off and open a galley sink faucet to release back pressure.
- Open the fresh tank drain line briefly until antifreeze flows out.
- Remove water pump filter if so equipped. Replace water pump filter lid.

Winterizing using compressed air

Roadtrek recommends against using compressed air for winterizing.

Other methods of winterizing

Roadtrek only recommends the winterizing method outlined above using RV antifreeze.