



# RV Winterization Guide

*Prepare Your Camper for the Cold*



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# Introduction

For those of us who live in locations where winter and fall bring cold and snow, it typically means the end of our RV season. And while you're preparing for the season ahead, it's important to prepare your camper for the end of summer.

No matter if it's your first year owning an RV, or you just forgot some of the rules over the summer, it's important to read up on winterization for your specific RV. The best place to start is the owner's manual -- or the Blue Dog RV parts and service department.

We put together this guide to help you store your coach for the winter. If you have questions, please don't hesitate to contact us.

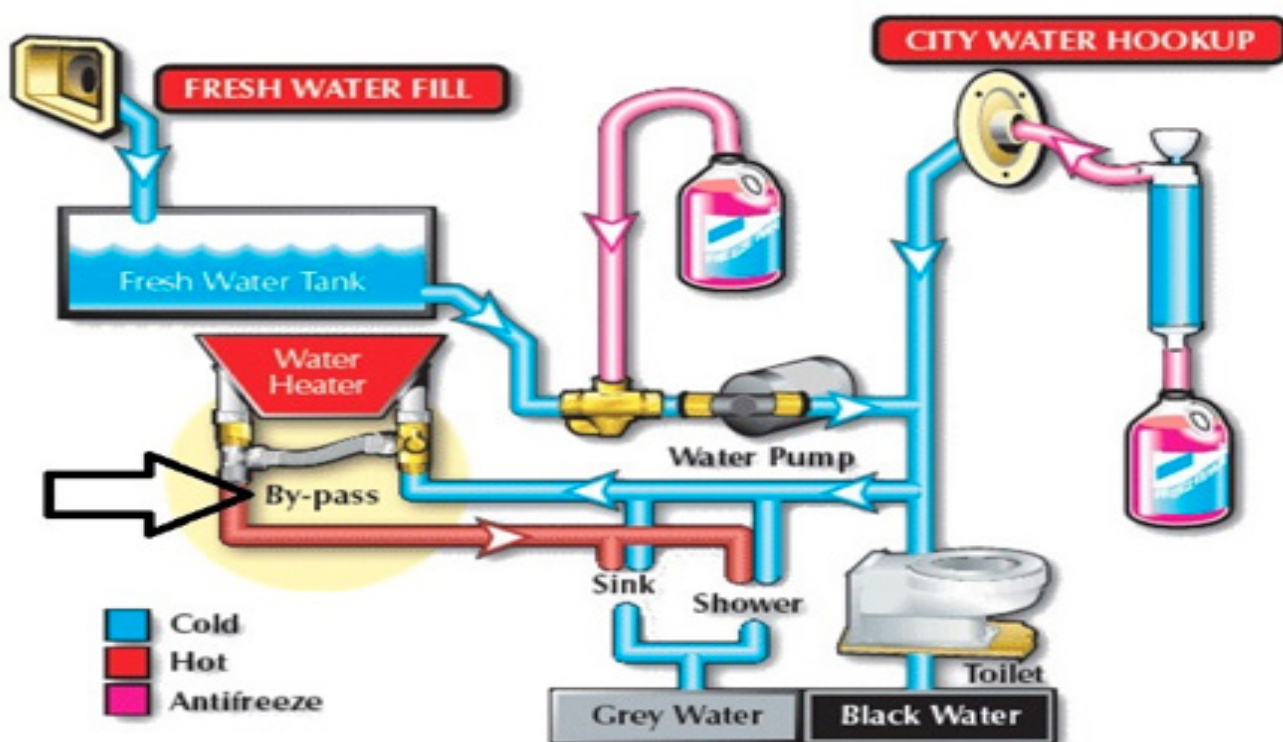
## Getting Started

### Clearing Water Sources

RV water systems are set up to flow water either from your fresh water tank or from the city water hook up.

Either of those sources provide cold water -- which means your RV's water flows through a water heater before hitting fixtures like your sinks and shower.

When you winterize your RV, you'll need to bypass the water heater, which is explained more in the diagram below.



# Prepare for Winter

## Bypass the Water Heater

Bypassing the water heater means you don't have to fill it with antifreeze -- which can save you money. Some RVs come with a bypass system pre-installed, but not all.

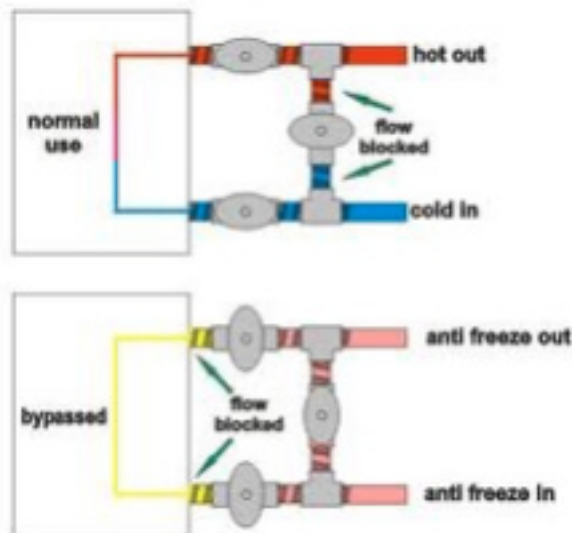
Before you start, make sure to turn off all power to water heater (the water heater usually has its own power on/off switch), disconnect the water supply, and make sure the water heater gas pilot is not lit. You'll also want to make sure your water heater is empty.



This is a water heater bypass kit. Blue Dog part #88-8848

*If you have a bypass system in place, you can skip ahead to step 3.*

1. **To install a by-pass system** disconnect both the hot and cold lines going into and out of the water heater.
2. **Connect the by-pass**, using 3 to 5 turns of Teflon tap to attach each connection.



This diagram shows the difference between your water heater piping system during normal use and bypassed for winterization.

3. **Close off the cold and hot lines** going into and out of the water heater and open the by-pass.

# 11 Steps to Draining Your RV

We've tried to simplify the winterization process as much as possible, so you don't spend too much time putting away your summer toy. Here's what we recommend:

- 1. First up, drain your fresh water tank.** It's important to get as much water out as possible. Try running the pipes and flushing the toilet to clear any excess water out of the system.
- 2. Also empty the holding tanks.** You'll want to dump and flush both the black and grey water holding tanks.
- 3. Remove the drain plug from the hot water tank** and allow the compressed air to blow out remaining water. When it's totally empty, reinstall the plug.
- 4. Next up,** drain your hot water heater.
- 5. When your hot water heater** is completely empty, close the water heater by-pass valve.
- 6. Remove the water line** that runs between the fresh water pump and the fresh water tank, where it joins the fresh water tank. You instead could install a pump converter kit, which allows you to drain straight from your jug of RV antifreeze with the flip of a valve.
- 7. Insert the end of the line** into a gallon container of RV Antifreeze. (Important note: Only use RV, non-toxic antifreeze that is safe for fresh water systems. *Never* use automotive antifreeze in your RV.)
- 8. Start the fresh water pump.** It will pull antifreeze from the container, and will stop as pressure builds up in the system.
- 9. Open each valve of the faucet,** one at a time, until the antifreeze appears, then shut the faucet. (Don't forget the shower and toilet!)
- 10. Remove the line** from the antifreeze container and reattach it to the fresh water tank.
- 11. Pour a few cups** of antifreeze down each drain and the toilet.



This is a pump converter kit. Blue Dog part #88-8843

## Don't Forget the Fridge!

Follow these steps to winterize your refrigerator.

- 1. Disconnect the water lines** from both the inlet and outlet sides of the ice maker's water valve.
- 2. Drain the lines into a cup** and allow them to dry.
- 3. Leave the door open** to air it out.

# Winterizing Checklist

## Other key areas to remember before the snow flies

The water system is the most vital piece of winterization, but there are some other things you should do before you store your coach.

- ✓ Remove any food that can spoil or attract pests
- ✓ Check plumbing vents, roof vents, and air conditioner shroud
- ✓ Clean and store your sewer hose
- ✓ Wash and wax (*if applicable*)
- ✓ Clean storage areas, oven, range, fridge, and area around table
- ✓ Disconnect your 120 volt line cord and store
- ✓ Park coach on gravel or pavement (*make sure it's leveled!*)
- ✓ Clean/repair awning (*don't use dish detergent!*)
- ✓ Examine seals around doors and windows; caulk or replace, if necessary
- ✓ Disconnect battery cables and store batteries

## Help When You Need It

Call the team at Blue Dog RV

We hope this information helps you prepare your RV for the winter season, so you can enjoy it for many years to come. If you need any help with winterization or RV repairs, just let us know.

[Contact Blue Dog RV](#)