

BASIC OPERATION GUIDE

This guide provides basic operational instructions pertaining to the components, devices, or equipment that may be installed on your motorhome. Please refer to the component manufacturer owner's manual for safety, troubleshooting, maintenance, and more detailed operating information.



Made to fit.

Winterizing the Fresh Water System

Applicable to all TMC Motorhomes

BASIC OPERATION

⚠ WARNING

Automotive antifreeze (ethylene glycol) and windshield washer antifreeze (methanol) are poisonous. Never use these products in your freshwater system. These products are harmful and may be fatal if swallowed.

Only use biodegradable RV antifreeze to winterize your motorhome's freshwater system.

⚠ CAUTION

Do not operate the water heater or use the motorhome's plumbing system after the water system has been winterized.

NOTICE

Antifreeze can be damaging to internal components of the water heater. For proper water heater winterizing, drain the water heater tank and bypass the water heater inlet before adding antifreeze to the freshwater system.

Preparing for colder weather or storage is EXTREMELY important. The motorhome should be winterized at the end of the camping season, or when exposed to temperatures that will fall at or below 32°F (0°C). Repairs due to freezing are not covered by warranty. Add only RV antifreeze to the fresh water system to ensure freeze protection.

1. Ensure the black and gray holding tanks are rinsed and drained.
2. Level the motorhome and drain the fresh water system.
 - Locate and OPEN the drain valve for the fresh water holding tank
 - Locate and OPEN the low point drain valves for both the hot and cold water lines.
3. Remove or by-pass the potable (drinking) water filter (if equipped).

4. Disconnect and cap (or by-pass) the:
 - Refrigerator ice maker inlet water line (if equipped)
 - Dishwasher inlet line (if equipped)
 - Clothes washer inlet line (if equipped)
 - If you have a dishwasher, ice maker, or clothes washer, follow the appropriate appliance manufacturer's instructions pertaining to winterization (and de-winterization)
5. Turn OFF all water heater power switches. Some water heaters have both 12 volt DC and 120 volt AC heating elements.
6. Turn OFF the gas valve at the water heater or turn off the power to tank-less water heater (if equipped).
7. Turn the water heater bypass valves (if equipped) to the BYPASS or WINTERIZE position. (A tank-less water heater may not have bypass valves).

NOTE: Refer to the water heater manufacturer's instructions regarding winterizing. Some manufacturers caution against introducing antifreeze into the water heater; it can damage water heater components
8. Drain the water heater tank. CAUTION: water may be HOT.
9. Close the fresh water holding tank drain valve and both low point drains valves.
10. Attach a short length of water hose to the city water fill (6 to 8 foot) and insert the other end of the hose into a gallon container of RV antifreeze (this quantity should be enough to winterize the motorhome). To assist the siphoning process, place the container on an object so that it is approximately two feet above ground level.

NOTE: Some water system designs include a Winterizing Port for the purpose of pumping antifreeze into the water system. This port is usually located near the water pump. Refer to the water system diagram for your floorplan.
11. Turn the water pump ON. If the water pump fails to self-prime, temporarily open the low point drains. Close the low point



IMPORTANT: This guide may include information for suggested customer purchased items, and component parts on some vehicles that may be optional or not available on your particular model. The inclusion of this information does not indicate or imply that the components or options were at any time available, or can be retrofitted to your vehicle, and is subject to change. If you, the purchaser, have any questions or concerns regarding the information contained in this Basic Operation Guide, or information contained in individual appliance or component manufacturer's instructions, please contact your selling dealership or TMC Customer Care at (877) 855-2867 (EST-Indiana) for assistance. Component part and appliance manufacturers issue limited warranties covering portions of the vehicle not covered under TMC Limited Warranties. Copyright Thor Motor Coach, Inc. © TMC 020062 Rev 221028

drains as soon as the water pump primes (RV antifreeze will begin draining out), and before continuing to the next step.

12. Open the hot water side on all faucets (kitchen, lavatory, shower, and exterior shower) until RV antifreeze begins to flow continuously.
13. Close the faucet hot water lines and repeat with the cold water lines on all the faucets.
14. **NOTE:** Allow enough antifreeze to flow so that the drain traps are filled with antifreeze.
15. Pour a cup-full of antifreeze down the shower drain.
16. Flush the toilet a few times until antifreeze appears in the bowl.

When you are done adding RV antifreeze:

17. Remove the hose from the city water fill port (or winterizing port).
18. To prevent staining, wipe the RV antifreeze out of the sinks, shower, and toilet using a soft, dry cloth.

NOTE: Review the freshwater system diagrams, which indicate the location of the freshwater holding tank drain valve, low point drain valves, and water heater bypass valves for your motorhome. These diagrams are available through your TMC Owners Resource on-line account and are included in the Schematic Diagrams set for your motorhome.

Fresh Water Tank Drain Valve

The location of the fresh water tank drain valve depends on motorhome class and floorplan.

Class A Diesel and Class A Gas with Water Panel Bay: The fresh water tank drain valve is usually located in the Water Panel Bay. Look for a red or blue T-handle.

Class A Gas without Water Panel Bay: The fresh water tank drain valve may be located in a storage bay directly below the fresh water tank or along the side of the fresh water tank. Look for a red or blue T-handle.

Class C: The fresh water tank drain valve is usually located along side the fresh water tank, above the floor. Beyond the valve, the drain pipe goes through the floor and to the outside. Look for a red or blue T-handle.

Class B: Similar to Class C installations, the fresh water tank drain valve is usually located along side the fresh water tank. An access panel may need to be removed. Look for a red or blue T-handle.

Water Heater Bypass Valves

⚠ WARNING

NEVER OPERATE A WATER HEATER IF ITS WATER SUPPLY SHUT-OFF OR BYPASSED. SEVERE DAMAGE TO THE WATER HEATER WILL RESULT, ALONG WITH A RISK OF FIRE.

NOTICE

Tankless water heater installations may not include bypass valves. Review the manufacturer's instructions regarding any cautionary statements they may have concerned with the introduction of sanitizing and winterizing chemicals to the water heater and its components.

A water heater bypass valve system may be installed inside your motorhome, usually behind the water heater, in a cabinet or maintenance access area. Bypass valves are used for water heater maintenance operations or when the manufacturer of the water heater cautions against introducing sanitizing and winterizing chemicals to the water heater and its components.

To bypass the water heater:

1. Close the valves leading to the cold water inlet and hot water outlet of the water heater.
2. Open the valve between the hot and cold water lines.

When the water heater is bypassed for winterizing, be sure to remove the drain plug and drain the water heater's tank. Refer to the manufacturer's instructions for long term storage and winterizing procedures.

When water system sanitizing activities are completed or when putting the water heater back in service, return the bypass valves to their normal positions so that the water heater will have a fresh and replenishing supply of water for normal operations.

Low Point Drain Valves

Low point drain valves are used to drain the freshwater system whenever maintenance, sanitizing, or winterizing is required. The valves are installed in at the lowest point of the water system, thus providing a complete freshwater system evacuation. The valves allow draining the hot and cold water lines. The freshwater holding tank may have a separate drain valve.



Typical low-point drain valves

Some floorplans utilize the outside shower as the low-point drain.