



## FULL PREPARATION CHECKLIST

# Winter RV Storage

Water left behind in the lines and tanks is what wrecks RVs over the winter, and nearly all of it is preventable. **Work through every section below, check the boxes as you go, and store with confidence.** Even in warm climates, a single hard freeze overnight can crack a water line or fitting, so don't skip the freeze-protection steps.

### 1 BEFORE YOU BOOK A SPACE

- ☐ Measure the RV: length, height, and width
- ☐ Pick a space with clearance for the full length
- ☐ Confirm facility rules on power and access hours
- ☐ Update insurance to list the storage location

### 2 CLEAN & DRY

- ☐ Wash and wax the exterior against UV and grime
- ☐ Clean the roof; inspect and reseal every seam
- ☐ Remove all food, even sealed packages
- ☐ Defrost the fridge, wipe it out, prop doors open
- ☐ Deep clean inside; never store anything damp
- ☐ Take home linens, cushions, and clothing

### 3 ENGINE & MECHANICAL

- ☐ Change oil and filter before storage, not after
- ☐ Top off coolant and check all fluids
- ☐ Exercise the generator monthly under load
- ☐ Cover the exhaust; leave a note to remove it
- ☐ Grease chassis fittings per the manual

### 4 FUEL & PROPANE

- ☐ Add fuel stabilizer to a nearly full tank
- ☐ Drive or run the generator to circulate it
- ☐ Close the propane tank service valve
- ☐ Cover the regulator against pests and weather

### 5 BATTERY

- ☐ Charge lead-acid and AGM batteries to 100%
- ☐ Charge lithium to about 50%, no float charger
- ☐ Disconnect or use the cutoff to stop draws
- ☐ Use a smart maintainer if power is available
- ☐ In hard freezes, bring lead-acid indoors

### 6 WATER SYSTEM (FREEZE PROTECTION)

- ☐ Dump black, then gray, then drain the fresh tank
- ☐ Drain the water heater; set the bypass valve
- ☐ Open the low-point drains and every faucet
- ☐ Run RV antifreeze, or blow lines out at 30 to 40 PSI
- ☐ Pour antifreeze in every P-trap and the toilet

### 7 TIRES & CHASSIS

- ☐ Inflate tires to the max PSI on the sidewall
- ☐ Put a barrier between each tire and the ground
- ☐ Cover the tires against UV, even in winter
- ☐ Move every 3 months, or set on jack stands
- ☐ Skip petroleum and silicone tire dressings

### 8 COVER & PROTECTION

- ☐ Use a breathable RV cover, never a plastic tarp
- ☐ Add a support pole so snow and water run off
- ☐ Retract slides for snow load and seal protection
- ☐ Retract the awning only when it is fully dry
- ☐ Knock heavy snow off the roof through winter

### 9 MOISTURE, MOLD & PESTS

- ☐ Set moisture absorbers in cabinets and closets
- ☐ Run a dehumidifier or low furnace if you have power
- ☐ Leave cabinets, drawers, and cushions open
- ☐ Seal underbody gaps with steel wool or copper mesh
- ☐ Screen the furnace, water heater, and fridge vents
- ☐ Set out EPA-registered rodent pouches

### 10 SECURITY & DOCUMENTATION

- ☐ Add a hitch or coupler lock on trailers
- ☐ Add a wheel lock or boot as a deterrent
- ☐ Photograph the interior, exterior, and any damage
- ☐ Keep comprehensive coverage; suspend collision
- ☐ Lock all doors, windows, and compartments

### 11 DURING STORAGE

- ☐ Visit monthly: cover, absorbers, tires, battery
- ☐ Watch for pests and address any sign early

**Tip:** When spring comes, run this list in reverse. Flush the antifreeze, sanitize the fresh water system, reconnect the battery, and reset tire pressures. Never fire the water heater until the tank is full, and check for chewed wires before you drive off.