



WINTERIZATION PROCESS

Step by Step

There are two general strategies in winterizing your van.

Air or RV non toxic Antifreeze

This is where you choose what method would work best for you. Below are the pros and cons of each method followed by instructions for each.

Air method

Pros: does not require any additional products

Cons: can be more challenging to know if all of the water is out of the system

Antifreeze method

pros: easier to know you have winterized properly. If you see antifreeze coming out of the faucets you know the line has antifreeze in it and is safe from freezing.

Cons: requires purchasing RV non toxic antifreeze. Can temporarily leave a slight taste. Requires removing the antifreeze before your next use.

The equipment in your van will vary from others. Read each step carefully as the steps will indicate and specify based on your equipment. If your van does not have the equipment specified in a step simply move on to the next step.

1. Drain the water tank

- a. Park the van on level ground if possible. *Tip; a great way to do this is to open the valve and go for a drive particularly on your return home after a trip.*
- b. Identify the drain tank valve. It is located next to the water tank typically a red pipe and is the only water pipe that goes through the floor of the van. Turn the valve parallel to the drain pipe if you did it right water will begin to come out on the ground. This will take 15- 20 minutes to drain.
- c. (*Quarter 3 - 2023 and newer builds only*) If you have Low point drains open both the hot and cold drains. Open all the faucets in the warm position to help the lines drain.
- d. The water level must be below the water pickup line a small amount of water left in the tank is ok 1/8th inch. Proceeding with the winterization before this event occurs will cause difficulties or an improper winterization which can lead to the system freezing. *Tip drain your tank on the last leg of your trip while driving.*
- e. (*Quarter 3 - 2023 and newer builds only*) Close the low point drains
- f. Close the water tank drain valve.

2. Remove the bulk of water.

- a. Open the sink drain underneath the van;

- b. *Grey tank equipped vans only*; remove the cap and open the blade valve to drain the water out.
- c. *macerator equipped vans only*; turn that on in order to push any water from the shower to the grey tank. *Macerators are rare in our builds and are typically only used in place of having two separate grey tanks when a shower is on the opposite side of the sink. i.e. drivers side and passenger side.*
- d. Close all faucets if open.
- e. Turn on the water pump
- f. Open the faucet you wish to remove water from using the warm position “halfway between hot and cold”. Keep it open until no more water comes out of the line. Then close the faucet. The reason for the warm position is so the water clears from both the hot and cold lines. Open and close the Faucet pausing 5 or so seconds in between allowing the pump to build and release pressure in the lines.
- g. For the shower outlet(s) hook up the shower connection, make sure the shower head is lower than the connection point. This is essentially a repeat of step f. open the shower mixer in the warm position, fully open or press down the shower handle until most of the water is out. Then close the faucet. Open and close the Faucet pausing 5 or so seconds in between allowing the pump to build and release pressure in the lines.
- h. After all water outlets are clear from the bulk of water. Turn the water pump off.

3. Remove the charcoal water filter

- a. Locate the charcoal water filter under the sink, note the direction of the arrow.
- b. Place some towels down in the galley to catch the water from the filter removal process.
- c. There is one plastic fitting and one metal fitting connecting the filter. Start with the plastic fitting first as it will make it easier to then take of the metal one later. it can usually be done by hand if not use a large pair of channel lock pliers and a towel as a buffer to prevent marring the fitting to get the fitting started. Loosen and disconnect the fitting.
- d. Use a crescent wrench on the metal fitting and loosen the nut.
- e. Remove the filter. We like to put the filter in the sink or clean bucket temporarily. As it will continue to drain water.
- f. Take the straight pipe that is fastened to the interior cabinet replacing the filter with the straight pipe. Essentially a reverse process that was just done with the charcoal filter. Start the connection with the metal fitting then the plastic. Once the straight pipe is in and tight you are ready for the next step.

Air method via Floe

If you choose to use RV antifreeze move to step 6.

4. **Floe system,** (for systems with Floe only 2022 – current builds only)
If you do not have a floe system move to step 5.

- a. If you have not done so close all faucets.
- b. You may want to place some towels around the sink as water will splash.
- c. Locate the floe compressor box it is a square box chartreuse in color mounted near the water tank.
- d. Open the blue valve connected to the floe box turn it parallel to the black air line.
- e. Press the rocker switch on top of the floe to turn it on. The floe may take a short moment to start making pressure or may not turn on at this point, you will hear a loud mechanical noise when it is pumping. If the floe turns on wait for the lines to pressurize until the pump turns off.
- f. Open the faucet in the warm position you wish to remove water from. Keep the faucet open for no more than 30 seconds at a time. Water or a mist will begin to come out. it may take several seconds of being open to observe this. Close the faucet. *Note running the floe for longer than 45 seconds at a time can burn the electric motor out. Running means that the actual pump is running which makes a distinct sound.*
- g. Repeat the open and closing process of the faucet allowing the system to build pressure while closed then opening the faucet no more than 30 seconds at a time to release the pressure. Do this as many times as it takes until a mist or no water comes out it may take several iterations of this process to get all of the water out.
- h. Repeat this again on each water outlet in the van until all the water is out. Noting on shower outlets to keep the shower connection below the outlet fitting.
- i. Turn the floe pump off.
- j. Close the blue valve next to the floe.
- k. Skip to step 7.

Air method via compressor

If you choose to use RV antifreeze move to step 6.

5. **Compressed air** (for systems with air inlets only 2022 and older builds)

- a. You may want to place some towels around the sink as water will splash.
- b. Use an air compressor line fitted with a Shrader valve connection. (same as a bicycle tube or car)
- c. Set the pressure on the air compressor to no more than 35 psi. *note if your van has a built in regulator this will regulate the pressure automatically. If this step of regulating the psi is not observed properly*

damage to your vans water system can occur if you have a dual top all in one unit.

- d. Locate the Shrader valve connection point on the water system this is located in the water box or sometimes on the outside of the water box by the shower connection. Remove the cap on the shrader valve. *Note This looks like a bicycle or car tire valve.*
- e. Open the faucet you wish to remove water from first the order doesn't matter in the warm position.
- f. Use the compressor connection and release air into the system via the shrader valve connection point. *This is the same process as filling a bicycle tire or a car tire.* Keep it open until no more water comes out. It may take several seconds of compressed air to observe this. release the compressor fitting after the water has been removed.
- g. Close the compressor fitting.
- h. Close the faucet.
- i. Repeat the process allowing the system to build pressure then opening to release the pressure as many times as it takes until a mist or no water comes out it may take several seconds of being open to observe this.
- j. Repeat this again on each water outlet in the van. Noting on the shower outlets to keep the shower connection below the outlet fitting.
- k. Skip to step 7.

6. Antifreeze method

- a. Pour 1-2 gallons of RV non toxic antifreeze into the water tank.
- b. Turn on the water pump
- c. Run each faucet one at a time on the van in the warm setting until the Anti freeze comes out of the faucet. Close each faucet before moving to the next.
- d. This ensures antifreeze is in all of your water lines.
- e. Move to step 8.

7. Water pump Particle filter. “ located in the water box”

- a. Locate the water pump particle filter clear housing. It is located just prior to the water pump in the box containing all your plumbing. There is typically an access door on the side of the box, if not remove the lid on top of the box to access the water box. This holds a small amount of water and must be removed.
- b. Unscrew the clear housing and pour out the water.
- c. We recommend leaving the cap off for the winter.

8. Disconnect your shower line(s)

- a. Disconnected the shower line, open the valve and hold the shower faucet end up high and let any remaining water come out of the line.
- b. Roll it up and store with the faucet open (note it may continue to drip some water from the end)

9. This finishes the water system winterization process.

Reach out to service@outsidevan.com if you have any questions or concerns