



RV Freshwater Tank Sanitization Checklist

1. If you have a water filter, remove it. Its best practice to change water filters at least once per year.
2. If you have a water softener, bypass it. It would be best if you did not sanitize your water softener. The chlorine could damage the resin beads and ruin the unit.
3. Bypass the water heater. You do not need to sanitize the water heater. See your owner's manual for instructions on how to bypass the water heater.
4. If the RV was winterized with antifreeze, flush the water lines with fresh water till they run clean.
5. Fill the fresh water tank at least 1/2 full.
6. Dilute the bleach before adding it to the tank. Put the amount of bleach you determined you needed to sanitize the freshwater tank in a bucket with a couple of gallons of water.
7. Add the bleach and finish filling the tank.
8. If you have a gravity fill tank like most travel trailers, pour the diluted bleach into the tank through the fill port.
9. If you have a pressure tank fill, like on most class A and Class C RV's, you can use a funnel, drain the water from your hose and pour the DILUTED bleach into the hose. Reconnect the hose to the faucet and finish filling the tank.
10. If you have a winterization kit installed as I do, you can use it and substitute a diluted bleach solution instead of antifreeze.
11. Fill the fresh water tank full.
12. When you have finished filling the tank, turn off the freshwater hose and turn on the water pump.
13. Run chlorinated water through every faucet and fixture in the RV. Don't forget the bath and shower, external shower, and icemaker if you have one.
14. Turn the freshwater supply back on and top off the tank with water.
15. Turn freshwater off and let the water in the tank sit for at least four to five hours to ensure the tank is sanitized. I like to wait overnight. Note: This is an excellent time to leak check your plumbing. See above for a complete discussion.
16. After you have waited overnight, drain the tank and refill it with fresh water.
17. Turn off the freshwater supply, turn on the pump, and begin flushing the water lines.
18. If the smell of chlorinated water is still present after a few minutes of flushing, drain the tank, refill, and start flushing again.
19. Flush the water heater per the manufacturer's instructions.
20. Replace the sacrificial anode in the water heater if required.
21. Please turn on the water heater and make sure it is working correctly.
22. Replace the external water filter with a new one.