



Spring startup and preventative maintenance checklist. (De-winterization)

Water Systems

- Check for leaks
- Fill your freshwater tank about half full and turn on the pump.
- Open each faucet and let the lines flush out. Get the sinks, shower, toilet, external shower, ice maker, etc. Flushing the lines will also flush the antifreeze if the RV was winterized.
- **Pump Leak Test**
- Once you have the water lines full of freshwater, stop and wait to see if the pump cycles. If all the faucets are closed and the pump is cycling, you have a leak somewhere. Find it and repair it.
- In addition to the pump leak test, you want to look for leaks under each sink, around the toilet, etc. Anywhere water is used, you want to take a look at the fittings and connections.
- Sanitize the freshwater tank and water lines as described in this article:
- Maintain your Grey and Black water tanks as described in this article:

Chassis batteries:

- Inspect and clean battery terminals.
- Replace battery terminal corrosion prevention washers.
- Check the water level and top off with distilled water only! Tap water will damage batteries.
- Charge the batteries.

House batteries:

- Inspect and clean battery terminals.
- Replace battery terminal corrosion prevention washers.
- Check the water level and top off with distilled water only! Tap water will damage batteries.
- Charge the batteries.

Generators and A/C power systems

- Change the generators oil, filters, and put in fresh fuel if you have not used a fuel stabilizer.
- Start the generator, run for a couple of minutes to warm it up, then run under load for 15 minutes.
- While you are load testing the generator that is the perfect time to check the other A/C devices you might have. Turn on your appliances that use A/C and run them as well. This will help provide electrical load and adequately exercise the generator. If your generator is big enough, don't forget to check your Air Conditioners if you have them.
- Don't forget to check out any auto formers or surge suppressors you may have. Test them per the manufacturer's recommendations.

Propane:

- Check and remove any corrosion from the tank. Repaint your propane tank as required.
- Check that every connection in the propane system is tight.
- *If you have a leak that you just can't get stopped, CONSULT A PROFESSIONAL.*

Inside maintenance items

- The first thing give it a good spring cleaning. Wipe down the walls and cabinets. Vacuum or clean the upholstery as appropriate. Don't forget to wipe out the fridge.



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- Check your roof-mounted hatches and fans for cleanliness, leaks, and proper operation.
- Operate all interior and exterior 12-volt lights. Replace as required.

Locks, latches, and sliders

- Spray silicone –only on slide and door gaskets. Don't forget the gaskets on any overhead exhaust fans.
- Lubricate the tracks for your sliding windows.
- Lubricate all the locks on your RV with the same silicone spray. Don't forget all the exterior compartment locks and the locking mechanisms for your doors or compartment doors.
- Lubricate any stairs or steps attached to the RV.
- Operate and lubricate awnings and slide-outs per the manufacturer's recommendations. Check that the straps are in good shape.

Air Conditioner

- Test operation
- Carefully remove the AC faring shroud and look for signs of insects like wasp nests. Clean them out.
- Clean the cooling coils with compressed air.
- Clean or replace any air filters that may be present.

Furnace

- Remove the exterior furnace cover and check for excessive dust accumulation or the presence of any insect nests. Clean as necessary
- Check propane connections for leaks
- Test that the furnace operates properly both on and off shore power.
- Check flame color. Yellow = requires service by qualified tech. **Blue = Good**
- Test propane or carbon monoxide detectors for proper operation. If either is older than ten years, replace it!
- Change the batteries in your CO and/or propane detector.



Refrigerator

- Remove the exterior cover and check for nests, dust, or other obstructions to the vents or fans that may be there. Clean with compressed air and a soft paintbrush.
- Test the fridge both on and off shore power. If you have a propane fridge (dual fuel), be sure and test on propane. With the exterior cover removed, there is usually a place where you can see the flame burning. If the flame is primarily yellow rather than bright blue, have the fridge serviced by a qualified RV service technician.
- Clean the inside of the fridge with your favorite cleaner. I like to use a bleach-based cleanser. It helps kill the molds that make the fridge smell musty.

Tires (don't forget the spare)



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- Look for signs of weather checking and any cracking in the sidewalls or tread.
- Check date code on tires, if older than 6 years you must replace.
- The first two digits are the week of manufacture
- The second two are year manufactured.
- Fill the tires to the correct pressure per the manufacturer's recommendations for your size and weight of RV. Consult your owner's manual or a qualified tire shop for recommended inflation for tires.
- Lose some weight! Go through everything you have stored in the basement, and if you don't remember using the item within the last couple of years, retire it to the garage.



Other Exterior/Interior maintenance items:

- Wash and wax the exterior. Don't forget to wash the roof!
- Lubricate the window sliding tracks with silicone spray and clean the windows.
- Check the condition of all caulked seams and around all window seals for signs of leaking.
- Repair failing caulk as required
- Lubricate the locks and hinges on compartment doors
- Hydraulic jacks: extend fully and wipe down the jack tube with a clean cloth and WD-40 or ATF.
- Screw-type jacks: spray the joints, the screw, and hinge points with your favorite dry lubricant spray.

Roof

- Do a careful roof inspection.
- Check roof seams and penetrations for cracks and damaged lap sealant.
- Refresh the lap sealant as needed. <https://amzn.to/3fQYor9>
- Wash the roof and treat any mold or mildew with a bleach solution

Rolling Chassis

- Headlights
- Marker lights
- Tail lights
- Lubricate the chassis and check all belts and hoses for signs of wear and tear.
- Change the oil and filters on the chassis as applicable.