

CARAVAN & MOTORHOME WINTER STORAGE CHECKLIST



CLEAN OUT INTERIOR

- ☐ Remove all food and perishables from cupboards, fridge, and freezer.
- ☐ Wipe down the fridge, freezer, and cabinets, leaving doors slightly ajar.
- ☐ Vacuum and clean all interior surfaces, including kitchen and bathroom areas.
- ☐ Open cupboards, lockers, and roof vents to promote airflow.
- ☐ Place moisture absorbers (such as silica gel packs or damp traps) inside lockers.
- ☐ Remove or cover soft furnishings, cushions, and mattresses.
- ☐ Stand cushions upright to prevent mildew and deter pests.
- ☐ Fit vent covers to keep out insects, dirt, and rain.
- ☐ Cap external drain outlets or waste fillers to prevent moisture ingress.

DRAIN AND PROTECT WATER SYSTEMS

- ☐ Turn off the water pump and open all internal taps (set mixer taps to the middle).
- ☐ Open drain valves on fresh and waste water tanks (and water heater if fitted).
- ☐ Run the water pump briefly to flush out remaining water until only air flows.
- ☐ Drain shower and sink traps completely.
- ☐ Empty and clean the toilet cassette and flush-water tank.
- ☐ Spray the toilet cassette seal with silicone oil and leave the blade slightly open.
- ☐ Remove the shower head and hoses, draining them thoroughly.
- ☐ Drive briefly with drains open to shake out remaining water, then close valves.
- ☐ Optionally add safe antifreeze to sink and toilet drains (per manufacturer's guidance).

DISCONNECT GAS AND FUEL

- ☐ Close all gas valves and disconnect bottles.
- ☐ Store gas bottles upright outdoors in a ventilated, secure location.
- ☐ Cap or seal any open gas pipes or regulator fittings.
- ☐ Fill the main fuel tank nearly full to prevent condensation.
- ☐ Add a fuel stabiliser if storing for several months.
- ☐ Plug or cover the exhaust tailpipe to prevent rodents and moisture entry.
- ☐ Wrap a rag around the tow hitch coupling to avoid corrosion.
- ☐ Check coolant, oil, brake fluid, and screenwash levels on motorhomes.
- ☐ Leave the motorhome in gear with wheel chocks (avoid using the handbrake).

BATTERY MAINTENANCE

- ☐ Remove and store the leisure battery in a dry, frost-free area if possible.
- ☐ If left in the vehicle, isolate habitation electrics per your handbook.
- ☐ Keep batteries charged using a trickle charger or solar panel.
- ☐ Avoid letting the battery discharge below 50% capacity.
- ☐ Recharge fully at least once a month if stored indoors.
- ☐ Use a battery maintainer for the engine battery or start the engine occasionally.
- ☐ Check isolator switches and breakers are correctly set.

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TYRES, BRAKES AND SUSPENSION

- ☐ Inflate all tyres to the maximum safe pressure.
- ☐ Move the vehicle slightly every few weeks to prevent flat spots.
- ☐ For long-term storage, consider axle stands or blocks to relieve pressure.
- ☐ Chock wheels and leave the vehicle in gear rather than using the handbrake.
- ☐ Lubricate hinges, stabiliser legs, and external fittings with light oil.

EXTERIOR CHECKS AND PROTECTION

- ☐ Wash the exterior thoroughly, including the roof and undercarriage.
- ☐ Clean seams, window seals, and rooflights.
- ☐ Inspect for cracks or damaged sealant and repair before storage.
- ☐ Apply an over-wintering fluid or moisture-repelling spray to the bodywork.
- ☐ Check undercoating and chassis seals for lifting or damage.
- ☐ Fit a breathable, model-specific cover once the vehicle is clean and dry.
- ☐ Ensure the cover is taut to prevent wind damage.
- ☐ Fit vent and fridge covers to protect against rain and debris.

PREVENTING DAMP AND PESTS

- ☐ Keep vents slightly open to maintain airflow.
- ☐ Do not block ventilation points completely.
- ☐ Place moisture absorbers inside cupboards and lockers.
- ☐ Plug drain holes and close waste outlets to stop insects and rainwater.
- ☐ Use pest deterrents such as mothballs or peppermint oil.
- ☐ Avoid blocking vents with wire wool or other materials.
- ☐ Check the vehicle periodically to air it out and spot any leaks early.

SECURITY MEASURES

- ☐ Fit visible deterrents such as hitch locks, wheel clamps, or steering locks.
- ☐ Activate alarms or tracker systems if installed.
- ☐ Remove all valuables, electronics, tools, and personal items.
- ☐ Take out soft furnishings where possible to reduce weight and temptation.
- ☐ Choose a storage site with secure fencing, lighting, and alarms.
- ☐ Notify your insurer of the storage location.