

ROAD READY

**The Importance of De-winterizing Your
RV Before Hitting the Road This Spring**

www.SuperSteerParts.com

The Importance of De-winterizing Your RV Before Hitting the Road This Spring

Spring is finally here! The days are getting longer, the temperatures are rising, and adventure is calling. If your RV has been in storage all winter, it's crucial to go through the proper dewinterizing process before you hit the road. Neglecting this step could lead to costly repairs and potential safety hazards. That's why your friends at [SuperSteerParts.com](https://www.supersteerparts.com) are here to guide you through the key steps to get your RV road-ready for the season ahead.

Why Dewinterizing is Essential

If you live in warm climates like California, Florida, or parts of Texas and Arizona, you're lucky—you get to RV all year long! But for everyone else, RVing is typically a seasonal activity, running from Memorial Day to Columbus Day. Once the season ends, winterizing is necessary to prevent freezing damage by either draining all the water from your lines or filling them with RV antifreeze (the pink stuff) in colder climates.

When spring rolls around, it's time to reverse the process and ensure everything in your RV is functioning correctly before your first trip. This is an exciting time, but it's also critical to inspect all major systems to avoid breakdowns and ensure a smooth ride.

Dewinterization Checklist for Motorhomes vs. Towable RVs

Motorhome owners have additional considerations compared to 5th wheels and travel trailers, as they must ensure both the **chassis** and the **house systems** are properly prepped for travel.

1. Flush and Sanitize the Water System

Most RV owners winterize their plumbing system by adding antifreeze. Before using your water system again, flush out all antifreeze by connecting city water and running it through your faucets. Don't forget to check your low-point drains and ensure they are closed.

Sanitizing your fresh water tank is also recommended. A common method is using one cup of household bleach per 15 gallons of water, letting it sit for 24 hours, then flushing the system thoroughly. This helps eliminate bacteria buildup and ensures safe drinking water.

2. Check Your Tires and Running Gear

Your tires and running gear are critical for safety and performance. After sitting idle for months, tires can lose pressure or develop dry rot. Here's what to check:

- Tire pressure and tread depth
 - Inspect the tires for signs of uneven or abnormal wear
 - Signs of cracks or dry rot
 - Lug nut torque (check your owner's manual)
 - TPMS (Tire Pressure Monitoring System) battery health
 - Brakes—if you're mechanically inclined, inspect the pads, rotors, and overall functionality
- ♦ **For Motorhomes:**
- Check **air suspension** and **hydraulic leveling systems** for leaks or malfunctions
 - Test **power steering fluid levels** and **brake system health**
 - Inspect **engine belts and hoses** for cracks or wear
 - Ensure **drivetrain components** (such as driveshaft and axles) are in good condition
 - Verify **exhaust system** for leaks or rust damage
- ♦ **For Towable RVs (5th Wheels & Travel Trailers):**
- Inspect the **hitch assembly**, safety chains, and **breakaway switch**
 - Ensure proper **greasing of wheel bearings**
 - Test **electric brakes** and ensure the **trailer wiring harness** is functioning

3. Inspect the Batteries

Cold temperatures can take a toll on RV batteries. Before heading out, test the voltage and ensure they are fully charged. If your batteries weren't maintained over the winter, they may need to be replaced.

The Importance of De-winterizing Your RV Before Hitting the Road This Spring

♦ For Motorhomes:

- Check **both house and chassis batteries** separately, as they serve different functions
- Ensure battery terminals are clean and free from corrosion
- Test the **alternator** to confirm proper charging while the engine is running

4. Examine the Exterior and Roof

- Inspect the roof, skylights, and vents for any cracks, leaks, or damaged seals. Small cracks in sealant can allow water to seep in, leading to expensive repairs.
- Check all mounted equipment, like solar panels and A/C cowlings, to ensure everything is securely fastened.

♦ For Motorhomes:

- Examine **slide-out seals** and lubricate if necessary
- Check for **windshield cracks or seal damage**
- Ensure **side mirrors and backup cameras** are functioning properly

5. Check Fluid Levels and Engine Components

If you own a motorized RV, check all essential fluids:

- Oil
- Coolant
- Brake fluid
- Transmission fluid

Also, inspect belts, hoses, and engine components for wear or leaks. If anything looks questionable, address it before hitting the road.

The Importance of De-winterizing Your RV Before Hitting the Road This Spring

♦ For Motorhomes:

- Check **diesel exhaust fluid (DEF)** levels (if applicable)
- Ensure the **fuel system** is free from leaks
- Inspect the **radiator and cooling system** for potential overheating risks

6. Test Appliances and Electrical Systems

Power up your RV and check major appliances, including:

- Refrigerator
- Stove and oven
- Furnace
- Air conditioning
- Propane system
- Interior and exterior lights

♦ For Motorhomes:

- Test **onboard generators** to ensure they are running smoothly
- Verify **inverter/charger** function and voltage output

7. Inspect the Brakes and Suspension

One of the most critical safety checks is ensuring that your brakes and suspension are in top shape. Make sure the shocks are intact and that all bolts are secure.

◆ For Motorhomes:

- Check **air brakes** and ensure proper operation
- Inspect steering linkage for excessive play, as well as the steering gear itself.
- Test air suspension (if equipped) for proper inflation and function
- Check coil/leaf springs and bushings (if equipped) for proper ride height and any signs of abnormal wear
- Check shock absorbers for signs of leakage.
- Check anti-sway bars (if equipped) for signs of loose or broken hardware
- Check any aftermarket steering and suspension components to make sure they are still functioning properly with no loose or broken components

◆ For Towable RVs:

Check leaf springs and shackle bolts for wear or breakage.

Confirm proper operation of your trailer brakes using the manual lever on your truck's trailer brake controller. With the trailer stationary, also pull the breakaway cable and listen to make sure the trailer brakes activate

8. Lubricate Moving Parts

Lubrication is often overlooked but is key to preventing wear and tear. Use corrosion-resistant lubricants on:

The Importance of De-winterizing Your RV Before Hitting the Road This Spring

- Door hinges, locks, and latches
- Stabilizer jacks, pivot points, and window latches
- RV slides, awning arms and slide rails
- ♦ **For Motorhomes:**
 - Grease **chassis lubrication points**, including drive shaft fittings and steering components
 - Check **entry steps and hydraulic slide-outs** for smooth operation

9. Restock Safety Gear and Essentials

Before hitting the road, double-check your safety gear:

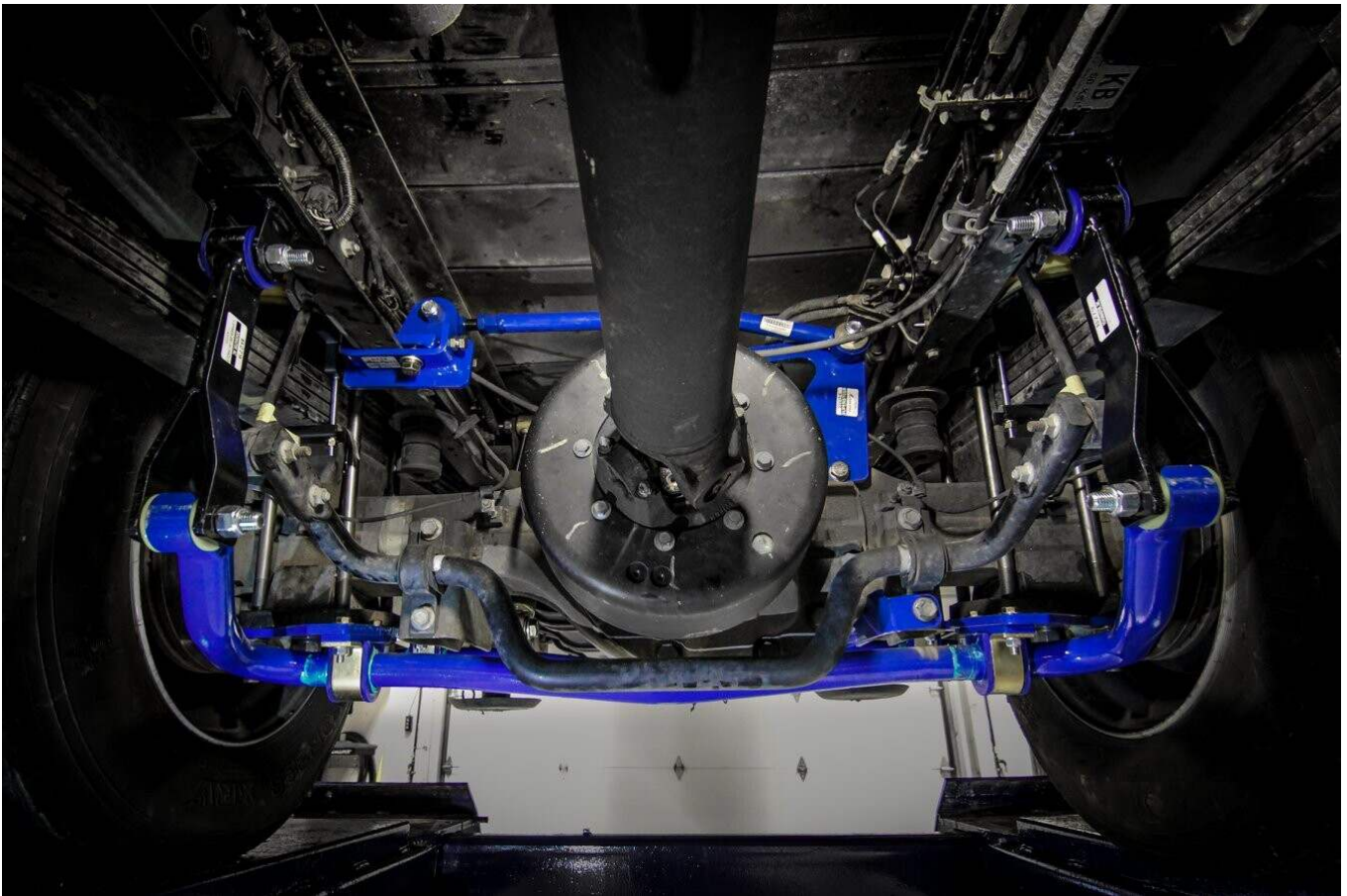
- Fire extinguisher
- First-aid kit
- Emergency roadside supplies
- Spare fuses and bulbs
- ♦ **For Motorhomes:**
 - Ensure tow bar connections (if flat towing a vehicle) are secure
 - Check headlights, taillights, signal and brake lights, and clearance lights. If towing a vehicle, check the wiring to make sure the tow vehicle's lights and brakes work properly
- ♦ **For Towable RVs:**
 - Ensure the hitch and safety cables are secure
 - Check the tail lights, brake lights and marker lights on the trailer or 5th wheel to ensure all are functioning properly

The Importance of De-winterizing Your RV Before Hitting the Road This Spring

Ready to Roll? We've Got Your Back!

Dewinterizing your RV properly means you can travel with confidence and avoid unnecessary breakdowns. At [SuperSteerParts.com](https://www.supersteerparts.com), we're here to help make your journey as smooth and enjoyable as possible. If you need any upgrades or replacements for your steering and suspension system, browse our selection of top-quality parts designed to enhance your RV's handling and stability.

Get your RV ready for another season of adventure—and enjoy **Safer and Happier Driving!**



About Us:

We are a family-owned after-market motorhome and RV parts supplier, primarily, to the recreational vehicle, pickup truck and commercial vehicle market. We specialize in building and distributing parts to improve your handling, suspension, steering and braking capabilities.

We see ourselves as a parts solutions center, offering a variety of products designed to address specific steering, handling and safety concerns. Steering column parts, truck suspension kits, motorhome shocks and car towing equipment are just a small sample of what we work with. The family business began in Grants Pass in 1961 as Henderson's Line-Up. We have been serving the local market by solving steering and handling issues for local customers ever since.

