

SECTION 7

CARE AND MAINTENANCE

WINTER PRECAUTIONS



- **Water Systems** - In severe cold it is wise to monitor the water temperature in the tank and take steps to drain and winterize if necessary. It is also a good idea, in severe cold, to open lower cabinet doors in the kitchen and bath to allow warm air to circulate around water fixtures. To minimize freezing damage, insulate drain lines exposed to the outside.
- **FOOD Storage** - If left in an unheated RV for a period of time, canned goods and other foods packed in water should be stored as high as possible since heat rises. Refrigerators can also be used for storage, even when unplugged, as they are well insulated.
- **Heating** - Use ONLY the RV furnace for heating as it is properly vented to the outside. NEVER USE THE RANGE FOR HEATING AS FIRE, CARBON MONOXIDE OR ASPHYXIATION COULD RESULT.
- **Condensation** - Moisture can collect on inside surfaces during cold weather when inside humidity is high. While the trailer is in use, a family can vaporize up to three gallons of water daily through daily living. Consider using a dehumidifier to remove moisture. See Section 4 of this manual for additional tips regarding condensation.

STORAGE TIPS



1. Park your RV on a level surface.
2. Winterize the chassis and the generator (optional) as outlined in the chassis and the generator owner's manuals.
3. Clean your recreational vehicle thoroughly, inside and out, as previously outlined in this section.
4. Turn off all electrical switches and appliances.
5. Close all shades and curtains. Consider protecting the curtains from sun fade by placing foil or paper between the windows and the screens.
6. Be sure all windows, doors and vents are securely closed. Cover exterior appliance vents to prevent moisture and insects from entering during storage.
7. Check the interior of the RV periodically to be sure leaks have not developed or that condensation has not formed, causing damage to interior components. Condensation can most readily be observed as moisture accumulation on windows and mirrors. To reduce the possibility of condensation, air out the RV occasionally during storage.
8. Be sure that both the chassis and auxiliary batteries have the proper electrolyte level and that they are fully charged. A discharged battery will freeze and crack the case. In storage, a battery will gradually lose charge after 30-45 days, even when disconnected by use of the battery disconnect switch. We recommend that you check the battery for charge once a month. If the charge is 80% or less, it must be recharged. You may wish to remove the battery and store it in a heated area. However, even when warm, the battery level must be maintained.
9. Be sure the tires are inflated to correct pressure and check periodically.
10. Keep the roof free from snow and ice. Check it periodically and after a heavy snowfall.
11. Winterize the water systems and protect exterior hoses and lines from freezing. Follow the winterizing procedure outlined in Section 5 of this manual. Also follow all component manufacturers instruction regarding their particular product. (If their procedure differs from this manual, follow the component manufacturers instructions.)