

## RV Dewinterization Basics

This process document corresponds to the YouTube video: [RV Dewinterization for Beginners](#). Please watch this video for visual understanding of the process. If you are getting started, some of the items mentioned are available on our [Amazon storefront](#). If this process is of value, we appreciate it if you would consider starting your online shopping from our store.

Below is the step-by-step process used to dewinterize my 2020 Keystone Bullet 243BHS travel trailer. While you may have a different RV, most of these steps should apply to your situation.

Here are the tools and supplies you will need to do this job:

- Household Bleach
- Measuring Cup
- Large (Gallon) Jug or Pitcher
- Small Funnel
- Water Filter
- RV Water Hose and City Water

### Part 1 – Sanitize the Freshwater Tank and Plumbing System

#### Step 1 – Change the Valve Direction on Hot Water Tank.

1. Find the panel or area to the hot water tank within the RV. If you can't find this, look for the hot water heater panel on the outside of the RV. The tank should be in the same general location inside the RV. Access may be under a bed or cabinet.
2. Open or remove the panel to gain access to the hot water tank.
3. Turn the valve or valves on the lines to the hot water tank to point in the direction of the line feeding the hot water tank. If you winterized the RV plumbing system in the fall or it was done for you, likely the hot water tank is still bypassed. This was done so no pink RV antifreeze would be in the hot water tank off-season. If so, it is now time to un-bypass the tank so it will fill with the needed bleach solution to sanitize the tank and plumbing system. The valve should be pointed in line with the hot water tank when it is open or un-bypassed. If this step is unclear, please see the video.
4. If you are concerned that introducing the below bleach sanitizing solution into the hot water tank will cause corrosion to the metal tank, please [read my take on this](#) risk trade-off.

#### Step 2 - Mix the Bleach Solution to Sanitize the Plumbing System.

5. Fill the freshwater tank 1/3 full of filtered water using an RV water hose and water filter. It is up to you whether you use filtered water, but it is generally a better idea to only use filtered water in the RV plumbing system.
6. Mix the bleach solution using ¼ cup of liquid bleach per 15 gallons of freshwater. For example, if you have a 30-gallon freshwater tank, use ½ cup of bleach.

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7. Mix the bleach and water in a jug, pitcher or container. You should now have a pitcher or jug full of water and the ½ cup of bleach mixed.
8. Use a funnel to pour the bleach solution that is in the jug or pitcher into the RV's freshwater tank that is 1/3rd full. Be careful not to spill the bleach solution on any clothing or skin. This may take several minutes to pour the gallon of bleach solution into the tank using the funnel. Pour slowly.
9. After the bleach solution is emptied into the freshwater tank, fill the freshwater tank full the rest of the way with water.

### **Step 3 - Fill the Hot Water Tank.**

10. Go inside the trailer and turn on the water pump. This will fill the hot water tank with bleach solution. It may take a few minutes to fill if you have a 6-gallon hot water tank. Once the hot water tank is full of bleach solution water, the plumbing system should be pressurized, and the water pump should turn off by itself.

### **Step 4 - Drain the Pink RV Antifreeze.**

11. Open the hot water faucet at the kitchen sink. RV pink antifreeze should come out of the faucet first if this is what you used to winterize the RV. The faucet may spit air and water a bit as the hot water tank pushes air from the plumbing lines. Bleach solution water should eventually come out of the faucet. You should smell a bit of bleach from the water at the faucet.
12. Turn off the hot water faucet and turn on the cold-water side of the faucet until bleach solution water comes out. Pink antifreeze should come out first, then a constant stream of bleach solution water. Again, you should be able to smell a bit of bleach in the water. Turn the cold-water faucet off when finished.
13. Turn the water faucets on, one at a time, at the bathroom sink on both the hot and the cold sides. Make sure RV antifreeze comes out, followed by the bleach solution water. Turn the faucets off when finished.
14. Turn the water faucets on one at a time at the tub and shower on both the hot and cold sides, again ensuring both hot and cold sides have RV antifreeze then bleach solution water coming out.
15. Flush the toilet, making sure clear bleach solution water follows after the antifreeze is flushed.
16. Turn the water faucets on one at a time at any outside shower on both the hot and cold sides, again seeing pink antifreeze come out followed by clear bleach solution water.
17. Open the spray nozzle of any water quick connect. Make sure antifreeze comes out followed by clear bleach solution water.

### **Step 5 – Allow Bleach Solution to Sit in Plumbing System.**

18. Turn the water pump off and empty bleach solution water from the toilet seal. It is best not to leave bleach solution on the seal.
19. Manually pour a bit of non-bleach solution water on the toilet seal.

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20. Refill the freshwater tank full to make up for any water used in the above steps.
21. Let the bleach solution sit in the hot water tank and plumbing lines for a minimum of 3-6 hours to sanitize the system.

## Part 2 – Flush the Plumbing System to Remove Bleach Solution

### Step 6 - Drain the Freshwater Tank of Bleach Solution.

22. Open the drain to the freshwater tank (under the RV) and allow it to drain the bleach solution fully. This will take several minutes depending on the size of your drainplug and tank.

### Step 7 - Drain the Hot Water Tank.

23. Ensure the water pump is off.
24. Open the hot water heater cover on the outside of the trailer.
25. If your water heater has an anode rod, see our video for dewinterizing an R-Pod travel trailer that has an anode rod.
26. Find the low point drain valves under the RV.
27. Reach under the RV and open the hot and cold low point drain valves. Some water may begin to come out of the valves.
28. Open the pressure release valve on the water heater so the hot water tank can begin to empty. You should see more water come out of the low point drain valves and hear the sound of the hot water tank emptying. This may take several minutes to drain.
29. Once the hot water tank is empty, reach under the RV and close the low point drain valves.
30. Go back to the water heater panel and close the pressure release valve.
31. Close the panel to the hot water heater.

### Step 8 - Flush the Plumbing System with Fresh Water.

32. Fill the freshwater tank full of fresh water in order to run water through all lines and faucets in the RV. This is done to purge any bleach solution water from the plumbing lines.
33. Run fresh water through the kitchen sink faucet both hot and cold sides for several seconds.
34. Run fresh water through the bathroom sink faucet both hot and cold sides for several seconds.
35. Run fresh water through the tub and then shower faucets both hot and cold sides for several seconds.
36. Flush fresh water down the toilet for several seconds.
37. Run fresh water through your outside shower both hot and cold sides.
38. Run fresh water through any water quick connect.

39. After you are done flushing, turn off the water pump.

**Step 9 - Rinse using the City Water Connection.**

40. Connect a water hose to the city water inlet on the RV and run water to flush the city water line. Make sure you use a water pressure regulator on the city water line. This will control the water pressure going into the plumbing system.

41. Once city water is connected, open each faucet as mentioned in the steps above and purge the lines of any remaining bleach solution.

**Step 10 - Visually Inspect Connections and Replace the Panel to the Hot Water Tank.**

42. With the city water still connected and the plumbing system under pressure, do a visual inspection of the plumbing connections around the hot water tank to ensure there are no leaks.

43. Once confirmed that there are no leaks, reseal the compartment to the hot water tank. Then go outside and disconnect the city water line.

That should do it, your RV is now dewinterized and should now be ready to use. Have a great camping season!