**Storing your motorhome**

**Temporary storage**

* Completely fill the fuel tank.
* Jack the vehicle so the tyres do not bear any load OR move the vehicle every 4 weeks to prevent pressure points from occurring on the tyres and bearings
* Protect the tyres from direct exposure to sunlight. Prolonged exposure to direct sunlight can lead to cracking in the side wall and a shortened tyre life
* Inflate the tyres to the recommended maximum pressure. This is likely to be higher than the usual operating pressure on a motorhome. This includes the spare wheel if one is fitted.
* Provide for sufficient ventilation around the underbody area.
* Check to ensure there are no openings that rodents can enter. Mice and rats can cause a lot of damage in a short time usually in areas that are hard to access.
* Ensure any permanent vents are clear and unobstructed. Roof vents in particular.
* If possible, air the interior, storage lockers etc to the outside every 4 weeks.
* Place upholstery in an upright position to air.
* Clean the refrigerator and leave door in ventilated position, including the freezer compartment.
* Turn off and depressurise the LPG system. If the bottles are disconnected from the gas system ensure the isolating valve in the LPG locker is turned off.
* Fully charge the house and starter batteries.
* If you have a solar system, ensure it receives at least one hour of direct sunlight each day to maintain the connected batteries.
* If you do not have a solar system or the solar panels will be covered connect your RV to mains power. If you have a good quality smart charger you can leave this connected and turned on for the duration of the storage. If you are unsure if you have a smart charger then turn on every week for a few hours to top up your batteries.
* Shut down the 12V system. The method is model dependant. Check with your supplier or motorhome manufacturer about this. Many motorhomes have 12V systems that remain live even when the main switch is off causing the house battery to discharge.
* For a short lay up leave your water tank full with good clean water. For a long lay up or over winter drain your freshwater system, including the hot water cylinder and open drain valves and all taps in the middle position.

**Winterising your RV**

* Carry out all the steps listed above plus the following.
* Clean and wax the exterior
* Check the antifreeze in the engine cooling system.
* Rectify any damage to the exterior.
* Lubricate all exterior hinges, rubber seals and gaskets.
* Clean the interior
* Where practical empty all cabinets and storage lockers, open interior flaps and doors and drawers
* If you haven’t done so, drain the entire freshwater system
* Shut down the 12V system, don’t leave it on standby. See the comment above.
* If there is a risk of extended periods of freezing temperatures either remove the batteries, house and starting, and keep them in a warm location. If this is not practical or easy to do and there is a mains power source available a small heater on a timer kept in the motorhome to keep the interior above freezing will help prolong your batteries life. In this case, please ensure the heater cannot cause a fire.
* In areas of higher humidity, a dehumidifier will help to prevent mould and mildew in the interior of your motorhome. It is best to use a timer so the dehumidifier only runs for a few hours per day, and it will need to be checked regularly to empty the water collection container. It is perfectly normal to collect water every day and it is not a sign of a water leak. This is a result of naturally occurring moisture in the air and how water vapour will disperse so it is at an even concentration in a specific area.

**Starting your RV after storage**

* Check the pressure on your tyres and set to your usual operating pressure if you have inflated them to the maximum operating pressure. Check your spare also if applicable.
* Turn on the 12V system
* Check the operation of the entrance step if one is fitted. Clean moving parts if needed.
* Check that the doors, windows, roof vents and hatches operate normally.
* Check exterior locks.
* Check behind the refrigerator vents to ensure there are no spider webs or dust present. Clean out if required.
* Reconnect the LPG bottles and turn on isolating valves.
* Connect to the 240V system if the motorhome has not been on mains power and allow the house and started batteries to become fully charged. This can be at least 24 hours depending on the installation.
* Check that all 12V and 230V systems are operating as expected.
* Refill the freshwater system and flush through the pipes, hot and cold.
* Close any safety drains.
* Check freshwater system for any leaks.
* Check the operation of the cooker. It may take a short time for gas to flow if the LPG system was disconnected from the bottle and the isolating valves were left open.
* Check the operation of the refrigerator (on all 3 energy sources if an absorption type).
* Check operation of the heater and water heater.
* Check the operation of other systems such as satellite dish, air conditioner etc.
* If there is any doubt about the operation of any system please contact your nearest RV Workshop to discuss.
* Restock your motorhome and enjoy your next adventure!