

WINTERIZING YOUR RV



Winter is quickly trailing up on us. Remember if you are storing your RV for the winter there are several precautionary measures you need to consider to ensure that your RV is ready to hit the road again in Spring. In addition to treating your other appliances and plumbing system, do not forget about your generator. It also needs winterization to be ready to hit the road trouble free when the weather clears up.

Throughout the winter months, if you store your RV or don't operate it often enough to refuel the gas tank every month, you could develop a fuel varnishing problem in your generator. Fuel varnish is a gummy residue that clogs the generator carburetor, fuel filter and fuel pump. It is caused by the deterioration of fuel that sits in the engine too long. This can happen in a surprisingly short time. Depending on fuel quality and storage conditions, gasoline can deteriorate in as little as 30 days. As long as you refuel frequently with fresh gasoline, and exercise the unit regularly, fuel varnishing is less likely to occur. But if you leave the same gasoline in the tank for several months, you're likely to have problems.

It is recommended to exercise your generator by running it at above 50% load for two hours once a month. This will help to keep things lubricated and expel possible moisture build up in the system. On winter season turning on your space heater and hair dryer are some good options to put a load on the system. It is also recommended that all coach owners buy genuine Cummins Green Label parts like OnaFresh (part #326-5365) and OnaGard (part #326-5288) when winterizing your generator. Our coach care facilities use these genuine parts in all winterization service events, and are available for purchase at any coach care location or at shopcummins.com.

During winter season for diesel generators, it is recommended to use the diesel fuel that gives the best performance under ambient temperature below 32 F. Use low sulfur or ultra-low sulfur content fuel having a cloud point of at least 10 F below the lowest expected fuel temperature. Cloud point is the temperature at which wax crystals begin to form in diesel fuel and it can clog the fuel supply system of the generator to the point that fuel can no longer flow. Be sure that a winter blend of diesel is used so it does not create wax crystals and become viscous in the fuel supply system of the generator. This can be an issue especially if filling your tank in warmer climates, then driving to a colder area. In the winter, many northern states of the US will have a winter blend of diesel available at the pump, but the southern states may only offer the usual summer blend. If this is the case, there are diesel fuel additives that can be added to ensure that it does not create wax crystals in the cold.

In certain situations, it is impossible to get to your RV to exercise the generator. In these situations, there are a few actions you can take.

LP GENERATORS

- Ensure the LPG system is leak-free
- The LP container is not filled beyond specified limit
- Shutoff valve is closed
- The vehicle is not parked near sources of heat or ignition.

GASOLINE GENERATORS

- Using a fuel stabilizer is important to prevent fuel varnishing.

DIESEL GENERATORS

- Treating the fuel with an anti-gelling additive is important to ensure you don't end up with a lump of wax in your tank.
- Adding a biocide can help to prevent microbial growth in the fuel.

Oils and Additives



CARBURETED SETS

- Carburetor bowl can be drained.
- Is important to pinch or valve off the fuel line and running the generator out of gasoline. Just remember when starting up again after storage you may have to prime longer if this is done.
- Use of a fogging spray is another option to coat the internal components of the engine for preservation in storage.

Carburetor Float Bowl Fuel Drain (4.0 KW generator)

