

# De-Winterizing The Truma-Equipped Travato

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Welcome. So you've bought a Winnebago Travato with the Truma Combi. It's spring time, and you want to get back on the road. There's a few things you will want to do.

## Introduction

Your new camper has a Truma Combi. There are some things you will want to get right when de-winterizing your camper. The Truma adds a few things you need to learn about and keep in mind vs. the old Atwood water heater and Suburban furnace you might have used on an older RV.

The goal of this document is to give you a simple, step-by-step procedure for cleaning out all the lines and getting your Travato ready to use.

## Getting started

First things first. Power up your Travato. Make sure your battery disconnect switch (located near the sliding door) is set to ON, and its light illuminated. Good. Now you have power to the coach systems. You might anyway if you had the Travato plugged into shore power, but it's a really good plan to have the battery disconnect set to have the battery connected too. Trust me. You'll be happy later when you unplug.

## Flush The Lines

The first order of business is to flush out the water lines and check for leaks. There are a whole lot of drain valves, so lets get them closed first.

- Three valves are under the driver's side of the van
- Truma drain valve (blue valve, yellow handle) is near the Truma (under dinette bench in a G, under the bed with the Truma in the K).
- Truma pressure relief valve, also near the Truma.
- Water tank drain valve, located under the dinette bench in the G. On the K, it's apparently one of the three valves located underneath the van along the driver's side.

Now make sure the faucets are all closed. This might be a good time to connect the outdoor sprayer (blue hose, at the rear of your Travato), as you'll want to flush that too.

OK, now connect a potable water hose to the City Fill port on your Travato. You went and got your green hose, didn't you? Go put that away. Use a white or blue hose that is designed for drinking water. We'll all be happy you didn't poison yourself.

Open the faucets one at a time. You'll get some air, and some pink stuff if you used RV antifreeze to winterize last fall. Let the water run until clear, then close the faucet. Open the cold and hot sides of the sink faucets. Don't forget the toilet and its sprayer, and the outdoor sprayer. Briefly open the low point drains too (valves under the driver's side in most cases, or inside the kitchen cabinet behind the bottom drawer for new G models).

Do you remember which way is which on your Truma winterizing valve? Yeah, there's a sticker. But odds are it's either placed in a useless way or is just totally wrong. We've all been there. Move the valve to normal (not-winterized) and then open a hot water faucet. Let water flow. If the Truma was empty (hopefully it was!) you'll get a bunch of air out of your hot faucets until the Truma tank fills up. Once water comes out of the faucet, let it run for a bit to further flush out the Truma.

One more thought. You really don't want pink antifreeze in your hair, do you? You'd better open a faucet in the bathroom, pull up the diverter and run some water through the shower head. Oh, you just got soaked? Sorry! I should have told you to hold the shower head in the sink. My fault. OK, your shower head is now free of the pink stuff.

Turn off the hose spigot now. Then disconnect the hose from the City Fill, and connect to the Tank Fill. Add some water to the tank, but don't fill it. 1/3 is plenty. Use the OnePlace to monitor as you fill. Shut off the spigot.

Turn on the water pump and let it cycle off. If it doesn't cycle off, turn it off and go looking for leaks RIGHT NOW. OK, good, it cycled off. Open the kitchen sink cold water, and let it run, then shut off. Do the same for hot and cold everywhere.

## Check For Leaks

Congratulations. You got the pink stuff out of the water lines. While connected to the City Fill, you didn't hear water dripping, and when using the pump, you heard the pump shut down.

Well, you're not quite done. It's a really good idea to go check for any leaks. Here are the places you want to look:

- water pump area: look around the pump with a flashlight. Use a tissue or paper towel if needed to check for moisture. You're looking for stuff that looks wet, but one of the sealants used is shiny, so don't let that fool you.
- pipe connections under the sink. These aren't so easy to get to. In the 59G, pull the floor piece from the cabinet under the sink. If there is any moisture you may have an issue. The experience with the 59K will be different.
- Around the Truma. There's a whole lot of plumbing around the Truma. Some of it doesn't drain that well, so that's why you used compressed air as part of winterizing. You did, didn't you? Winterizing is the subject of another writeup.

OK, you've flushed the lines and checked for leaks and all seems good. Congrats! You're not done.

## Sanitize

Go back to that winterizing valve on the Truma and put it back to Winter mode. You're going to sanitize with bleach and the Truma doesn't like that, so we will sanitize everything else. It'll be OK.

Now that you've bypassed the Truma, it's time to introduce some bleach.

Open the gravity fill port on the fresh water tank. Place a funnel in the opening.

Put two gallons of water in a bucket or other suitable container. Put on goggles and rubber gloves and measure out 1/2 cup of unscented bleach (Clorox or whatever) and add it to the bucket. Pour this solution into the gravity fill of your water tank. Now remove the funnel and close the gravity fill again.

Connect your potable water hose to the Tank Fill and fill the tank the rest of the way. Then turn off the fill spigot and disconnect the hose.

Turn on the water pump and open faucets one by one. Let it run until you smell chlorine from each. Don't forget the toilet and the sprayer. Now turn off the water pump.

Find a good book and read for four hours or more.

OK, it's later. Open all the drain valves. It's time to get that icky chlorine smell out. Once the lines and water tank have drained, hook your hose to the tank fill. Leave the tank drain open for a minute, and let water flow into the tank and out the drain to get out a bit more chlorine. Then close the tank drain and fill the tank.

Close the other drain valves.

Move your potable water hose to the City Fill and turn it on. You forgot to close some drain valves, didn't you? Go close them up.

OK, now let water flow through the faucets to get all that smell back out.

Turn off the spigot and disconnect your potable hose. Now turn on the water pump and flush at one of the sinks (cold side). That'll get the last of the chlorine out of the water pump.

Switch the Truma bypass valve back to normal mode and flush the hot water lines to make sure any residual chlorine is gone from there too.

## Water Filter - Old Style

You had the filter bypass plug in place while you did all the de-winterizing, right? OK, you might not if you have a Travato with a different filter setup that doesn't need a bypass plug. If you don't know what that means, you need to find your water filter location. It's under the sink in the G, and in the access area under the bed next to the sink in the K. You should have removed the

filter when you winterized and replaced it with the bypass plug (if necessary) that came with your Travato. You really don't want the antifreeze in the water filter. And besides, you bought a brand new water filter for the new season anyway, so keep the bypass plug (or don't install a filter) in place until you finish de-winterizing, then install the new filter.

Make sure you have the pump off and don't have the City Fill connected. Open the cold water faucet on the kitchen sink and let the water pressure drop off to nothing.

Put a container under the filter assembly. When you pull the bypass plug (or while installing the filter), it's probably going to drip or pour some water. That's normal, but you don't want to have that going all over the place.

Install the new filter. Turn on the water pump and open the cold water faucet on the sink. It'll take a bit, then let it flow water for a while. Check for leaks.

## **Water Filter - New Style**

Newer Travatos have a filter contained in a housing. It seems 3M decided to stop making the filter system Winnebago had been using. So for the new one, drain the lines, make sure the water pump is off, and you do not have a water line hooked to the city fill. Open the cold side of the kitchen sink to relieve any pressure.

OK, now remove the housing slowly, and make sure you have towels below as you may wind up with some water dripping. Insert the new cartridge and put the housing back in place.

Turn on the water pump and open the cold water faucet on the sink. It'll take a bit, then let it flow water for a while to flush out any carbon from the filter. Check for leaks. Once you're sure it's good, you can remove the towels you had in place to catch leaks.

## **Dump Your Tanks**

Now that you've done all this de-winterizing and running water and flushing, you've got some relatively fresh water in your holding tanks, probably some antifreeze too. Go to a dump station, drain the tanks and you're ready for your next adventure.