

Frequently Asked Questions **Minimising the Risk of Frost Damage**

1. Do I need to drain down my caravan during the winter months?

Yes. Even if you come down at weekends, it only takes a hard frost or two and you stand the risk of burst pipes, the associated mess and expense.

2. What do I need to be aware of during the winter months?

Propane gas will work during the winter, so you are able to use your room heaters, cooker etc (plus shower or boiler if you are going to re-connect and drain down each visit). Butane will freeze up in the winter and become unusable. Gas appliances can be dangerous in confined spaces because:

- a) they use up the oxygen supply
- b) they increase CO2 levels
- c) they also create a lot of moisture causing damp and mildew

Please remember that if you have re-connected your water supply, it can still freeze up even if you are staying there.

3. What is the minimum I need to do to winterise my caravan?

Water piping in the caravan is very vulnerable to frost damage and we suggest the following procedure be adopted as a minimum:

- a) Both stopcocks must be turned off and the caravan stopcock also disconnected from the joint above the stopcock if possible.
- b) All drain cocks should be left open. These are usually situated under the caravan. There will be at least two - one for the hot water and one for the cold water systems. In some makes the drain cock is under the kitchen sink. Caravans fitted with central heating systems should contact the Office for instructions.
- c) All taps should be left open and the toilet cistern drained.
- d) Anti-freeze or salt should be placed in the toilet pan after the cistern has been emptied.
- e) There is always a drain plug in your water heater. This must be removed. Refer to the manufacturers handbook.
- f) Where possible we suggest blowing through your pipe work and heater to remove the water lying in the pipes.
- g) Do not forget to check your shed and drain accordingly.

We would point out that this procedure is not a guarantee against frost damage but will certainly reduce any damage from bursts. On request we will drain your caravan for you and also reconnect in the spring – a charge is made for these services.

4. How do I use my caravan at weekends once it's been drained down?

There are two options:

- a) Re-connect and drain down every time you come down (approx 30 minutes each)
- b) Get water from the stand pipe (see overview map for location) with a bucket and use as required.

Also after using the WC, pour the bucket of water down the pan to flush it away or top up cistern before using to flush in the usual way. Before leaving the caravan ensure cistern is empty then add more antifreeze to the pan.

5. My caravan has central heating does it have to be drained down?

The central heating side of the boiler and radiators are a closed system and assuming the correct level of antifreeze is present this does not need to be touched. The domestic water side of the boiler must be drained down as with a conventional caravan boiler.