



FIFTH WHEEL CO.

# Winter Guide



CELTIC RAMBLER



DREAM SEEKER



INOS

Had your last caravan trip of the season and preparing your unit for hibernation? Follow our Winter Guide for tips and advice on how best to store your unit over the winter months...



## Storage

Think carefully about where to site your caravan through the winter months. Make sure it's a safe location. Avoid trees where sap or, worse, branches may fall on the caravan. We do have limited indoor storage available here at Fifth Wheel, over the winter months - for more details contact our Sales Team ([sales@fifthwheelco.com](mailto:sales@fifthwheelco.com) / [01745 583 000](tel:01745583000)). Alternatively, we'd suggest choosing a member of the Caravan Storage Site Owners' Association - More details can be found by following this link: [www.cassoa.co.uk](http://www.cassoa.co.uk)



## External Care

Here are some aspects to consider for preparing the external of your unit for winter storage:

- **Bodywork** - Clean the exterior bodywork using the appropriate cleaning products for the walls and plastic windows.
- **Awning** - Spread out and clean your awning in a dry area. Try removing stains and spots with the appropriate cleaning product. Store your awning in a dry area.
- **Cover** - If you opt for a caravan cover, make sure it's made of a breathable material, otherwise condensation and mould can grow underneath it.
- **Tyres and steadies** - Site your caravan on level ground. Leave the handbrake off if it's to be in storage for a length of time. Visit the caravan throughout the winter months and turn the wheels to avoid the risk of flat spots on your tyres.



## Interior Care

Here are some aspects to consider for preparing the interior of your unit for winter storage:

- **Blinds** - Make sure all the blinds and flyscreens are fully retracted to avoid damage to the springs that help the blind return to its retracted position.
- **Ventilation** - Leave vents uncovered so air can circulate inside the caravan. We'd recommend visiting the caravan regularly while it's in storage over the winter months and leaving small bowls of salt dotted around the caravan to help absorb condensation.

- **Fridge** - Empty the fridge, clean it out with a solution of bicarbonate of soda or similar, and leave the door ajar so that air can circulate.
- **Soft Furnishings** - You might want to consider removing soft furnishings such as cushions and mattresses altogether, but if this is not possible at least store them on end so that air may circulate around them.



## Water Systems

All water systems need to be drained down to minimise the risk of freezing and burst pipes in the event of cold weather. You will also need to drain down your caravan's water heater – read the instructions for how to do this for your particular model's system. A downloadable copy of Alde heating system instructions is available here:

[www.fifthwheelco.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/Alde-heating-systems-guide.pdf](http://www.fifthwheelco.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/Alde-heating-systems-guide.pdf)

Also remove water filters to prevent any water held in them freezing and potentially damaging the unit.



## Gas and Electrics

Remove gas cylinders and place them in a cool, ventilated place. Unless it's connected to a caravan alarm system, remove the 12V battery and store it in a cool, dry place. Check it regularly, and top up its charge levels when necessary. Remove the batteries from battery-operated clocks, smoke detectors and the like, too.

We hope you find the above tips useful. Should you have any further questions regarding how best to prepare your unit for winter storage, please get in touch and we will be more than happy to advise you on possible solutions.