

# Winterization: Step-by-Step Instructions

Proper winterization prevents damage during the off-season. Follow these steps to ensure your equipment remains in optimal condition throughout the winter.

## 1. Electrical Disconnection

### Step 1.1: Turn Off Main Power

Locate the main power switch or circuit breaker for the equipment. Switch it to the "OFF" position to ensure no electricity is flowing.

### Step 1.2: Unplug Devices

Disconnect all electrical devices and accessories from power outlets to prevent phantom loads (standby power consumption).

### Step 1.3: Remove or Disconnect Batteries

If the equipment uses batteries, remove them or disconnect the battery terminals. Store batteries in a cool, dry place to prevent discharge and damage.

### Step 1.4: Inspect Cables and Connections

Check all cables and connectors for signs of wear or corrosion. Clean and dry all electrical contacts before storing.

## 2. Corrosion Protection

### Step 2.1: Clean Metal Surfaces

Thoroughly clean all exposed metal parts to remove dirt, grease, and moisture. Use a dry cloth or appropriate cleaning agents.

### Step 2.2: Dry Completely

Ensure all metal surfaces are completely dry before applying any protective coatings.

### Step 2.3: Apply Protective Coating

Use a corrosion inhibitor spray, oil, or grease suitable for your equipment. Apply a thin, even layer to all exposed metal components.

### Step 2.4: Inspect and Reapply as Needed

Check the coated areas for coverage. Reapply the protective coating if any spots are missed.

## 3. Hydraulic System Preparation

### Step 3.1: Check Hydraulic Fluid

Inspect the hydraulic fluid level and quality. Replace old or contaminated fluid with a manufacturer-approved fluid suitable for low temperatures.

### Step 3.2: Drain Water from the System

If the system contains any water or water-based fluids, drain them completely to prevent freezing and damage.

### Step 3.3: Protect Hoses and Seals

Examine hoses and seals for cracks or wear. Replace any damaged parts to avoid leaks during freezing conditions.

### Step 3.4: Operate the System Briefly

Run the hydraulic system for a few minutes to circulate the new fluid and ensure all components are lubricated.

### Step 3.5: Store in a Safe Position

If possible, store hydraulic cylinders in a retracted position to minimize exposure to the elements.

By following these steps, you can ensure your equipment is properly winterized and protected from damage during the off-season.