



Press briefing

BILSTEIN B6 Camper and Camper Advanced

When the camping season ends: How to properly prepare your motor home for the winter break

Essen/Ennepetal, 06 November 2025 – After a summer full of travel, experiences and unforgettable moments, the time is approaching for many campers to send their motor home into hibernation for the winter break. Storing your vehicle properly not only protects it from frost and moisture but also preserves its value – and ensures you won't have any nasty surprises when you start up again in the spring.

The top 10 for the winter break:

- 1. The right winter storage**
A covered, dry parking space is ideal. When parking outdoors, a breathable tarpaulin should be used that allows moisture to escape but keeps out dirt and UV radiation.
- 2. Thorough cleaning of the exterior and underside.**
A complete vehicle wash is mandatory before storage. The underbody and wheel arches should be cleaned of dirt and road salt and then treated with corrosion protection. It is advised to repair minor paint damage immediately.
- 3. Maintain seals and ensure ventilation**
Treat door and window seals with rubber care products to keep them smooth and elastic. Keep ventilation shafts and openings clean and secure them against small animals. Ventilate regularly or use a dehumidifier during periods of inactivity.
- 4. Empty the water systems**
Fresh water, wastewater and washing-up water systems must be completely drained. It is best to blow out the pipes with compressed air, set the fittings to the middle position and switch off the pumps. Boilers and tanks should also be empty to prevent damage due to freezing.
- 5. Secure electrical systems and batteries**
Fully charge on-board batteries, disconnect them and store them in a frost-free place if possible, or maintain them using a trickle charger. Check electric connections for corrosion.
- 6. Prepare the fuel system**
Fill the tank as full as possible to prevent condensation from forming. Diesel additives can prevent bacterial growth ("diesel pest"). Also check the radiator and windscreen antifreeze and fill it up if necessary.
- 7. Relieve the tyres**
Slightly increase the tyre pressure (by about 0.5 bar) to prevent flat tyre. If possible, relieve the load on the vehicle by placing it on supports or moving it slightly from time to time.
- 8. Release the parking brake**
Release the hand brake if possible, to prevent the pads from rusting. Instead, secure the vehicle with wheel chocks and the gear engaged
- 9. Prepare the vehicle interior**
Store all textiles, upholstery and mattresses in a dry place or prop them up slightly to allow air to circulate. Completely remove all food, drinks and perishable supplies. A clean and empty vehicle is the best protection against mould and odours.

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10. Regular checks

Even during the winter break, it is worth checking on your vehicle occasionally: look for moisture, ventilate briefly, check the battery and seals. This will keep your motor home in top condition.

Tip from the expert: check the shock absorbers and make use of the rest period

Storage is the perfect time to check the technical condition of the suspension – especially the shock absorbers. Motor homes in particular are subject to high masses and loads, which puts a lot of strain on the shock absorbers over the season. Oil traces, unstable handling or longer braking distances are clear signs of wear.

If replacement is due, the winter break is the ideal time. This is the time for maintenance or a reasonable upgrade, for example with the BILSTEIN B6 Camper or BILSTEIN B6 Camper Advanced. Both have been specially developed for motor homes and offer significant advantages over OE shock absorbers:

- noticeably better driving stability – especially in crosswinds or when cornering,
- more comfort on uneven roads,
- more precise tracking and better control during evasive manoeuvres,
- less tendency to roll and fewer vibrations in the interior,
- no modification of springs required.

The “Advanced” version also features adaptive mechanics that automatically adjust to road conditions: comfortable on long journeys, firmer during fast manoeuvres. This makes it particularly interesting for larger or fully loaded motor homes.

Winter camping – the magic of the cold season

While many campers give their motor homes a winter break, more and more are discovering the fascination of winter camping. Clear air, snow-covered landscapes and quiet pitches have their own unique charm. However, technical preparation is essential to ensure that the pleasure remains unclouded: in addition to heating and insulation, this also includes checking the shock absorbers. Especially in wet, snowy or icy conditions, they give the vehicle crucial safety reserves and convey the good feeling to retain control at all times.

With the right care and preparation, your motor home will remain fit for many more trips. Whether in hibernation or on snowy mountain passes, those who take care of maintenance and technology early on will start the next season safely, comfortably and with great anticipation.

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About BILSTEIN

BILSTEIN is part of thyssenkrupp AG and has its headquarters in Ennepetal, Germany. The company develops and produces suspensions, shock absorbers and springs for cars and vans and is one of the world's largest suppliers with an annual production of around 13 million shock absorbers. BILSTEIN is a technology leader and a global player with more than 4,100 employees at nine locations in six countries – including the UK, the USA, Romania, China and Mexico.

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