



Maritime news, maintenance advice, surveying tips, product reviews and other boat related stuff.

Boat Chat Checklists For Boat Owners & Surveyors

Prepare Your Boat For Winter

'If you want peace of mind, prepare for the storm'

No.	Engine & Gearbox	Done	Undone
1	Top up the fuel tank & add some diesel conditioner https://amzn.to/47xQGKi		
2	Check the gearbox or outdrive oil level – change it if it is milky		
3	Drain clean and replace primary fuel filters / separators		
4	Flush engine, change engine oil and filter, run for 30 minutes		
5	Clean out debris from water filters		
6	Drain raw water cooling system (if fitted) refill with 50:50 antifreeze mix		
7	Check the water pump impeller for broken blades		
8	Check antifreeze protection is at least -22°C https://amzn.to/47YPU9a		
9	Run engine for 1 minute to distribute antifreeze around engine		
10	Remove the air intake filter and spray some oil into the inlet		
11	Block the air intake with an oily rag		
12	Loosen or remove all drive belts		
13	Clean then preserve the engine pulleys with some oil or grease		
14	Block the exhaust outlet with an oily rag		
15	Wipe down the engine and gearbox with a clean oily rag		
16	Clean and dry the engine bilge		
17	Nip up the stern tube greaser		
18	Check the clips and bellows on stern drives		
19	Check the seals on saildrives		
20	Put a DO NOT START sign on the engine controls		

Notes:

If you found this checklist useful, why not support Boat Chat by buying us a beer at:
<https://www.buymeacoffee.com/whitehatmarine>



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No.	Domestic Systems	Done	Undone
1	Remove clothing, bedding and perishable foodstuffs		
2	Drain down freshwater system, add some Milton to water tank near the end		
3	Leave all taps open		
4	Drain down external and internal showers		
5	Deep clean, turn off and leave fridge with door slightly open		
6	Light gas hob, grill and oven and then turn gas off at cylinder		
7	Clean hob, grill and oven and rub down with a clean oily rag		
8	Check all through hull skin fittings for leaks, security and corrosion		
9	Exercise all sea cocks and check hoses for security, service Blakes units		
10	Check continuity and resistance of any bonding wires		
11	Check antifreeze concentration of heating system and top up		
12	Clean and check all bilge pumps are working. Leave on automatic mode		
13	Set up a dehumidifier draining into the galley or heads basin		
14	Set up a small electric heater with thermostat for 5°C frost protection		
15	Open all fixed ventilation units		
16	Lift up floor boards and open all lockers to allow ventilation to all areas		
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No.	Batteries and Electronics	Done	Undone
1	Ideally, take batteries home and store in a frost-free place		
2	Clean, preserve and cover battery terminals		
3	Top up wet cell batteries with de-ionised water if they need it		
4	Set up a mains or solar panel battery trickle charger		
5	Set up a remote battery management system		
6	Clean deck-installed instruments clean and fit covers		
7	Spray behind electronics with water-repellent silicone		
8	Remove expensive electronics from cockpits		
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No.	Sails and Rigging	Done	Undone
1	If possible, check mast top fittings		
2	Remove sails for winter cleaning or storage		
3	Remove running rigging for cleaning (use labelled mouse lines)		
4	Clean salt off deck fittings with warm fresh water		
5	Raise all lines left on board off the deck to minimise mould and slime		
6	Rub all standing rigging fittings with a clean oily rag		
7	Lash down spinnaker poles and boom		
8			

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No.	Hull and Deck	Done	Undone
1	Check all deck filling point seals and smear a little Vaseline on		
2	Have the yard pressure wash the hull when lifted out		
3	Wash down decks with fresh water		
4	Check scuppers and run off channels are clear of leaves and debris		
5	Ensure sufficient mooring lines / props / cradles are in place		
6	Ensure adequate chafe protection for all lines is in place		
7	Fit ice protection boards on FRP canal boats		
8	Lower anchor and flake chain onto a pallet, check condition and markings		
9	Clean and polish prop, preserve and cover with a bucket		
10	Lash down the tiller / wheel to minimise rudder movement		
11	Check condition and continuity (to the propshaft) of hull anodes		
12	Clean and preserve sprayhoods then remove to minimise wind damage		
13	If covering boat with a tarp, make sure it is not tied to the hull supports		
14	Lubricate the mechanism on locks and padlocks https://amzn.to/4a2Ksnu		
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