



Please note: *These are suggestions only. Check your equipment manuals for manufacturer recommendations.*

BEFORE YOU LAUNCH:

- Inspect the hull for blisters, distortions and stress cracks. Paint the bottom with antifouling if needed.
- Replace zincs.
- Inspect and lubricate seacocks, hoses and hose clamps.
- Inspect prop for dings, pitting and distortion. Make sure cotter pins are secure. Check cutlass bearing.
- Make sure your engine intake sea strainer is free of corrosion and properly secured.
- Check to make sure the rudderstock hasn't been bent.
- Check the engine shaft and rudder stuffing boxes for looseness. After the boat is launched, be sure to check these as well as through-hulls for leaks.
- Make sure your seacock for saltwater intake is open before you start the engine.

ENGINES AND FUEL SYSTEMS:

- Inspect fuel lines, including fill and vent hoses, for softness, brittleness or cracking. Check all joints for leaks
- Inspect fuel tanks, fuel pumps and filters for leaks. Clamps should be snug and free of rust. Clean fuel filters.
- Inspect cooling hoses and fittings for stiffness, rot, leaks and/or cracking. Make sure they fit snugly and are double-clamped.
- Every few years, remove and inspect exhaust manifold for corrosion.
- Clean and tighten electrical connections, especially both ends of battery cables. Wire-brush battery terminals and fill cells with distilled water.
- Inspect bilge blower hose for leaks. Inspect bilge pump for corrosion.

RIGGING and SAILS:

- Inspect fittings for cracks and rust. Inspect wire halyards and running backstays for "fishhooks" and rust.
- Remove tape on turnbuckles and lubricate threads, preferably with Teflon. Replace old tape with fresh tape.
- Recaulk through-deck chainplates as necessary.
- Test/service winches to make sure they are working properly.
- Inspect all working sails and canvas and fix any tears, deteriorating seams, and reinforce areas of wear.

SAFETY

- Check expiration dates on flares and fire extinguishers.
- Inspect bilge pump and float switch to make sure it's working properly.
- Make sure you have a properly sized and wearable life jackets in good condition for each passenger, including children and pets.
- Check shore power cable connections for burns, which indicates the cable needs to be replaced.
- Replace bobbins on inflatable life jackets. Check all safety gear for wear.
- Check first aid kit for expiration of contents.
- Check condition of binoculars and navigation instruments
- Request a courtesy marine exam from your US CG Auxiliary for compliance with current Coast Guard regulations

MISCELLANEOUS:

- Inspect dock and anchor lines for chafe and fenders for wear.
- Use a hose to check for deck leaks at ports and hatches. Renew caulk or gaskets as necessary.

- Check stove and remote tanks for loose fittings and leaking hoses or corrosion.
- Update or replace old charts, waterway guides, tide tables.
- Make sure your boating license and/or registration is up to date. Don't forget your dinghy tags.
- Review your boat insurance policy and update coverage if needed. Be sure you have fuel spill insurance coverage.
- Flush fresh water systems with plenty of fresh water.
- Reconnect electronics and antennas and check for operation.

COSMETICS

- Scrub topsides, clean and polish all plastic and glass with appropriate cleaners
- Clean vinyl (cushions, fenders, etc) and apply protectant
- Clean hull and apply wax
- Clean interiors below decks from mold and mildew
- Refinish or apply topcoat of varnish on wood surfaces

AFTER YOU LAUNCH:

- Check to be sure water is circulating through cooling system and that exhaust is appropriate
- Open bilge and check for any leakage.
- Check all seacocks to be sure they are open and not leaking
- Check shaft seal and packing gland
- Check rudder post for leaks
- Check all gauges while running engine
- Check radio (Do not conduct radio checks on Channel 16. Use channel 9 or some other working channel) and instruments for proper function

ADDITIONAL ENGINE MAINTENANCE SUGGESTIONS

Outboard Motors

- Replace spark plugs.
- Check external gasoline tanks for corrosion, and replace if necessary. Look for cracks in the priming bulb, and test it for firmness and resiliency. If it collapses, replace it.
- Note the color of the lube oil in the lower unit. If it's cloudy, there's probably a leak around the prop-shaft seal. Fix it and change the oil.
- Look for leaks around the trim cylinders.

Gasoline Inboards

- Replace spark plugs.
- Clean flame arrestor.

Diesel Engines

- Clean air filter, if installed.
- Once you're up and running and the engine is under load, note the color of the exhaust. This can tell you what is going on inside your engine. Black exhaust indicates either too much fuel or not enough air or an unsuitable prop. Check for a clogged air intake or improperly adjusted fuel system. Blue smoke indicates that oil is burning in the combustion chamber. Possible causes could be worn piston rings or cylinder walls, worn valve guides, or a clogged crankcase ventilator. Refer to your engine log and note last year's oil consumption. If it gradually increased over the year, do a compression test on each cylinder.
- If your oil filters are spin-on units, apply a thin film of oil to the gasket and hand-tighten when replacing. If the filter is a cartridge, make sure the O-ring gasket is properly seated before reinstalling. Filters should be topped off with clean oil before starting your engine.