

Boat Maintenance Checklist

Use this Handy Checklist for Boats/Yacht
Before Getting Back on the Water



Completing all the maintenance needed for your vessel will make it easy to be out on the water as soon as the cruising season begins.

Choosing a Boat Manufacturer

When purchasing a new (to you) boat, go for a well-known brand but avoid models that seem to be prominent on the used sales scene. This could indicate an issue with the model that you don't want to inherit.

- ☐ Does the brand have a good reputation?
- ☐ Does the model have a good reputation?
- ☐ Check reviews
- ☐ Ask other owners for their feedback

The Engine

The engine can be one of the most expensive parts of a boat, so take your time and really make sure it's in good working order. A test drive will really give you a sense of how the boat handles.

- ☐ Inboard or outboard motor
- ☐ How many motors
- ☐ Check engine hatch for breathability
- ☐ Motor starts smoothly
- ☐ Check engine insulation
- ☐ Check for any leaks
- ☐ Check age of engines
- ☐ Look for any smoke
- ☐ Check transmission
- ☐ Check levers on every seacock
- ☐ Check raw water intake and strainer

The Vessel History

Knowing the history of the individual boat is helpful in knowing where any dings or scrapes / larger issues may have come from

- ☐ Any recalls?
- ☐ Any known issues?
- ☐ Has the boat been in any accidents?

The Electrical Systems

All electronics should be in good condition and working well. If there's a short or any indication of issues with the electronics, the electrical should be thoroughly inspected

- ☐ Review owner's manual
- ☐ Check battery for damage or corrosion
- ☐ Check interior and exterior lights
- ☐ Check navigational equipment (GPS)
- ☐ Check electrical box
- ☐ Check HVAC or Air Conditioner for effective cooling & heating
- ☐ Check appliances
- ☐ Check all wiring and connections
- ☐ Check for corrosion or signs of damage
- ☐ Test the generator on full tilt for 30 minutes
- ☐ Do a final test of all electronics on board



The Exterior Condition

Beyond the aesthetics of the boat, the exterior condition can tell you a lot about how well this boat has been treated and the potential for bigger problems down the line. Check the boat over with the hull lifted out of the water so you can see below the waterline.

- ☐ Check the fibreglass for any hollow sounds when tapped
- ☐ Check for scratches and cracks
- ☐ Check for cracks or damage around fittings
- ☐ Check for any damage on and around hatches
- ☐ Check condition of handrails
- ☐ Check to make sure cleats are secure and in good shape
- ☐ Check for any rust
- ☐ Check the condition of the deck
- ☐ Check the condition of the hull
- ☐ Look for bubbling in the paint
- ☐ Check the condition of the zinc anodes
- ☐ Check the bearings of the rudder
- ☐ Check the overall rudder
- ☐ Check seating and upholstery for any mold / mildew / tears
- ☐ Check the helm for any damages
- ☐ Check the steering wheel

The Owner's Manual and Legal Documents

Look through the owners manual and legal documents so you have the exact specs and features list with you.

- ☐ Check the bill of sale or sales documentation
- ☐ Check insurance papers
- ☐ Check for any outstanding money owed
- ☐ Check that the engine hours match the sales contract
- ☐ Check for any warranty information

The Interior Condition

The interior of the boat will be your home away from home, so you'll want to make sure it's comfortable and in good shape. You'll also want to make sure it's free of any issues with plumbing and electricity.

- ☐ Check the condition of lockers
- ☐ Check the condition of trims, stairs, flooring
- ☐ Check for damage to doors and portholes
- ☐ Check lights and switches
- ☐ Check TV, speakers and any other extras
- ☐ Check the head for water pressure and quality
- ☐ Check appliances for interior or exterior damage
- ☐ Check to ensure that appliances are bolted and mounted
- ☐ Check for leaks in fridge
- ☐ Check temperature in fridge / freezer
- ☐ Test all appliances to make sure they work

The Safety Equipment

The bilge pump, fire extinguisher, anchor and chains should all be in good working order. Even if you plan on replacing most of the safety supplies, it's a good idea to look through the existing ones to get a feel for how the current owners have cared for the boat and its components.

- ☐ Check expiration date of fire extinguisher
- ☐ Check bilge pump
- ☐ Check condition of life jackets and any expiry dates
- ☐ Check oars and any other manual propulsion tools
- ☐ Check the flares
- ☐ Check to see if the marine radio is working
- ☐ Check condition of heaving line and lifebuoy(s)
- ☐ Check condition of first aid kit

