



PROTECTING PERFORMANCE. PRESERVING VALUE.

BOAT WINTERIZATION CHECKLIST

A practical pre-storage checklist for protecting your vessel through winter, lay-up, or reduced-use periods

HOW TO USE THIS CHECKLIST

This checklist is designed to help you prepare your boat before winter storage, lay-up, or a long period of reduced use. Work through each section, tick off completed checks, and use the notes areas to record any faults, parts required, or jobs to book before spring.



1. WORK THROUGH EACH SECTION

Start with the planning section, then move through the vessel's main systems including engines, batteries, plumbing, bilges, exterior protection, interiors and safety equipment.

2. TICK OFF COMPLETED CHECKS

Use each checklist point as a simple task marker. Tick items off once they have been checked, serviced, secured, drained, protected or confirmed.

3. RECORD NOTES AND FOLLOW-UP JOBS

Use the notes sections to record parts required, faults found, service work needed or anything that should be checked again during winter storage.

4. USE ALONGSIDE MANUALS AND PROFESSIONAL ADVICE

Every vessel is different. Always follow manufacturer guidance, vessel-specific procedures and professional advice where required, especially for engines, fuel systems, plumbing, seacocks and electrical systems.



IMPORTANT NOTE:

This checklist is for general guidance only. Winterization requirements vary depending on vessel type, climate, storage location, onboard systems and manufacturer recommendations.

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PRE-WINTER PLANNING

Use this section to prepare the vessel before starting practical winterization. Good planning helps reduce missed jobs, rushed decisions and avoidable damage during storage.

1. CONFIRM THE STORAGE PLAN

Why: Winter preparation depends on whether the boat is staying afloat, being hauled out, stored indoors, covered, or left outside.

2. REVIEW MANUFACTURER GUIDANCE

Why: Engines, batteries, plumbing systems and onboard equipment may have specific winterization requirements that should be followed.

3. BOOK YARD OR SERVICE WORK EARLY

Why: Engineers, yards and lift-out slots can become busy before winter, so early booking helps avoid delays.

4. WALK THROUGH THE VESSEL AND LIST KNOWN FAULTS

Why: Creating a job list before storage helps make sure leaks, worn parts, alarms, corrosion or damaged equipment are not forgotten.

5. REMOVE VALUABLES AND UNNECESSARY EQUIPMENT

Why: Reducing items onboard helps prevent theft, damp damage, mould, clutter and unnecessary load during storage.



6. PHOTOGRAPH THE VESSEL BEFORE LEAVING

Why: Photos create a useful record of covers, lines, shore power, batteries, deck layout and vessel condition before lay-up.

ENGINE & FUEL SYSTEM

Use this section to check key engine and fuel items before winter storage. Always follow manufacturer guidance and use a qualified marine professional where required.



CHECK MANUFACTURER WINTERIZATION GUIDANCE

Why: Engine requirements vary, and the correct process helps prevent damage from freezing, corrosion or incorrect servicing.

RECORD ENGINE HOURS

Why: This creates a clear service record and helps plan oil changes, filter changes and spring recommissioning work.

INSPECT BELTS, HOSES, CLAMPS AND VISIBLE LEAKS

Why: Small cracks, loose clamps or leaks can worsen during storage and are easier to deal with before winter.

CHECK COOLANT AND ANTIFREEZE PROTECTION

Why: Poor coolant protection can lead to freezing damage, overheating issues or corrosion inside the system.



FLUSH AND PROTECT THE RAW WATER SYSTEM IF REQUIRED

Why: Salt, debris and stagnant water can increase corrosion, blockages and freezing risk during lay-up.

CHECK FUEL LEVEL, FILTERS AND STABILISER REQUIREMENTS

Why: Fuel can degrade during storage, and water or contamination in the system can cause problems on restart.

BATTERIES & ELECTRICAL

Use this section to protect the vessel's batteries, charging setup and key electrical systems before storage or reduced use.

FULLY CHARGE BATTERIES BEFORE STORAGE

Why: Batteries left in a low state of charge are more likely to sulphate, lose capacity or fail before the next season.



CHECK BATTERY CONDITION AND AGE

Why: Weak or ageing batteries are more likely to fail during winter, especially if supporting alarms, pumps or monitoring systems.

CLEAN TERMINALS AND CHECK CONNECTIONS

Why: Corroded or loose connections can reduce charging performance and cause electrical faults.

SWITCH OFF NON-ESSENTIAL LOADS

Why: Reducing unnecessary electrical drain helps protect batteries and lowers the risk of flat batteries during storage.

CONFIRM CHARGER AND SHORE POWER SETUP

Why: Incorrect charging settings, damaged cables or poor shore power setup can create battery, fire or reliability issues.

CONFIRM BILGE PUMP POWER SUPPLY IF ALOAT

Why: Boats left in the water still need reliable bilge pump operation, even when most systems are shut down.

FRESHWATER & PLUMBING

Use this section to prepare freshwater, plumbing and onboard water systems before winter storage. Requirements depend on the vessel and climate.



DRAIN OR PROTECT FRESHWATER TANKS

Why: Water left in tanks can become stale, freeze in cold climates or create problems when the boat is recommissioned.

DRAIN OR WINTERIZE FRESHWATER PIPES AND PUMPS

Why: Water trapped in pipework or pumps can freeze, expand and damage fittings, valves or pump components.



CHECK WATER HEATER GUIDANCE

Why: Water heaters can be damaged if left full, pressurised or incorrectly drained during freezing conditions.

PROTECT SHOWER SUMPS AND GREY WATER AREAS

Why: Standing water, soap residue and debris can cause smells, blockages, pump issues or freezing damage.

CHECK HEADS AND TOILET SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

Why: Toilet systems, pipework and holding tanks may need flushing, draining or protection before long periods out of use.

INSPECT FOR LEAKS BEFORE STORAGE

Why: Small leaks can create damp, mould, bilge water or hidden damage if left unchecked through winter.

BILGES, PUMPS & SEACOCKS

Use this section to check below-deck areas, drainage points, bilge systems and seacocks before the vessel is left in storage.



CLEAN AND DRY BILGES WHERE POSSIBLE

Why: Clean bilges make it easier to spot leaks, reduce odours and prevent debris from blocking pumps or limber holes.

TEST BILGE PUMPS AND FLOAT SWITCHES

Why: Bilge pumps are critical protection, especially if the boat remains afloat or is exposed to rainwater ingress.

INSPECT SEACOCKS AND THROUGH-HULL FITTINGS

Why: Seacocks and skin fittings are high-risk areas and should be checked for stiffness, leaks, corrosion or damage.

CHECK HOSE CLAMPS AND BELOW-WATERLINE HOSES

Why: Loose clamps, cracked hoses or poor fittings can become serious issues if left unnoticed.



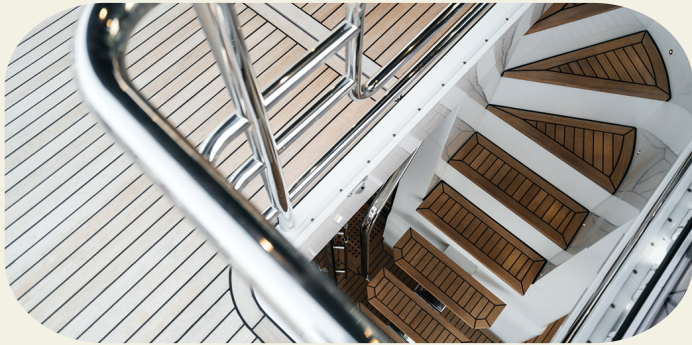
CLEAR DRAINAGE PATHS AND LIMBER HOLES

Why: Blocked drainage can trap water in hidden areas and increase the risk of damp, corrosion or freezing damage.



EXTERIOR, DECK & COVERS

Use this section to protect exterior surfaces, deck gear, covers and exposed equipment before winter weather or storage.



WASH AND DRY EXTERIOR SURFACES

Why: Removing salt, dirt and grime helps reduce staining, corrosion and surface damage during lay-up.

CHECK COVERS, CANVAS AND FASTENINGS

Why: Poorly fitted or damaged covers can allow water ingress, chafe, movement or wind damage.

CLEAR DECK DRAINS AND SCUPPERS

Why: Blocked drains can lead to standing water, staining, leaks or freezing around deck areas.

SECURE OR REMOVE LOOSE DECK GEAR

Why: Loose items can move, cause damage, blow away or create hazards during winter weather.

CHECK MOORING LINES, FENDERS AND CHAFE PROTECTION

Why: Boats left afloat need secure lines and protection against movement, weather and marina surge.

INSPECT EXTERIOR FITTINGS AND HARDWARE

Why: Cleats, rails, hinges, catches and deck fittings can loosen, corrode or leak if not checked before storage.



INTERIOR & VENTILATION

Use this section to reduce damp, mould, odours and interior damage while the vessel is closed up or used less frequently.



REMOVE FOOD AND PERISHABLES

Why: Food left onboard can spoil, attract pests, create unpleasant smells and contribute to mold during storage.

REMOVE BEDDING, TOWELS AND SOFT GOODS WHERE POSSIBLE

Why: Fabrics can absorb moisture and are more likely to develop mould or odours if left onboard.

CLEAN FRIDGES, FREEZERS AND GALLEY AREAS

Why: Clean, dry galley spaces help prevent odours, bacteria and mould during lay-up.

LEAVE FRIDGE AND LOCKER DOORS OPEN WHERE SUITABLE

Why: Better airflow helps reduce trapped moisture and stale smells in closed spaces.



CHECK HATCHES, WINDOWS AND SEALS FOR LEAKS

Why: Small leaks around glazing or deck openings can cause damp, staining and interior damage over winter.

SET UP VENTILATION OR MOISTURE CONTROL

Why: Good airflow and moisture management are key to reducing condensation, mould and interior deterioration.

MASTER TICK SHEET

Use this page as a quick task list once each winterization section has been completed. Tick off finished items, mark anything that still needs attention, and use the notes column for follow-up jobs.

CATEGORY	TASK	COMPLETE	NOTES
PRE-WINTER PLANNING	Confirm the storage plan	☐	
	Review manufacturer guidance	☐	
	Book yard or service work early	☐	
	List known faults	☐	
	Remove valuables and unnecessary equipment	☐	
	Photograph the vessel before leaving	☐	
ENGINE & FUEL SYSTEM	Check manufacturer winterization guidance	☐	
	Record engine hours	☐	
	Inspect belts, hoses, clamps and leaks	☐	
	Check coolant and antifreeze protection	☐	
	Flush and protect raw water systems	☐	
	Check fuel level, filters and stabiliser	☐	
BATTERIES & ELECTRICAL	Fully charge batteries	☐	
	Check battery condition and age	☐	
	Check terminals and check connections	☐	
	Switch off non-essential loads	☐	
	Confirm charger and shore power setup	☐	
	Confirm bilge pump power supply if afloat	☐	
FRESH WATER & PLUMBING	Drain or protect freshwater tanks	☐	
	Drain or winterize pipes and pumps	☐	
	Check water heater guidance	☐	
	Protect shower sumps and grey water areas	☐	
	Check heads and toilet system requirements	☐	
	Inspect for leaks before storage	☐	

MASTER TICK SHEET CONTINUED

Use this page as a quick task list once each winterization section has been completed. Tick off finished items, mark anything that still needs attention, and use the notes column for follow-up jobs.

CATEGORY	TASK	COMPLETE	NOTES
BILGES, PUMPS & SEACOCKS	Clean and dry bilges where possible	☐	
	Test bilge pumps and float switches	☐	
	Inspect seacocks and through-hulls	☐	
	Check hose clamps and below-waterline hoses	☐	
	Clear drainage paths and limber holes	☐	
	Record leaks, corrosion or concerns	☐	
EXTERIOR, DECK & COVERS	Wash and dry exterior surfaces	☐	
	Check covers, canvas, and fastenings	☐	
	Clear deck drains and scuppers	☐	
	Secure or remove loose deck gear	☐	
	Check mooring lines, fenders and chafe protection	☐	
	Inspect exterior fittings and hardware	☐	
INTERIOR & VENTILATION	Remove food and perishables	☐	
	Clean fridges, freezers and galley areas	☐	
	Leave fridge and locker doors open where suitable	☐	
	Remove bedding, towels and soft goods where possible	☐	
	Check hatches, windows and seals for leaks	☐	
	Set up ventilation or moisture control	☐	

WINTER INSPECTION LOG

Use this page to record routine checks while the vessel is in storage. Log each inspection, identify issues early, and note any action required before the next visit or spring recommissioning.

INSPECTION AREA	CHECK ITEM	STATUS		ACTION/ NOTES
PRE-WINTER PLANNING	Storage arrangement confirmed	☐ Ok	☐ Issue	
	Yard or marina access confirmed	☐ Ok	☐ Issue	
	Known faults list reviewed	☐ Ok	☐ Issue	
	Photos and condition record updated	☐ Ok	☐ Issue	
ENGINE & FUEL SYSTEM	Engine bay visual check	☐ Ok	☐ Issue	
	Fuel system condition	☐ Ok	☐ Issue	
	Coolant/ antifreeze protection	☐ Ok	☐ Issue	
	Raw water system protected	☐ Ok	☐ Issue	
BATTERIES & ELECTRICAL	Battery charge status	☐ Ok	☐ Issue	
	Charger/ shore power setup	☐ Ok	☐ Issue	
	Bilge pump power supply	☐ Ok	☐ Issue	
	Visible electrical issues	☐ Ok	☐ Issue	
FRESHWATER AND PLUMBING	Freshwater system protected	☐ Ok	☐ Issue	
	Pipes/ pumps checked	☐ Ok	☐ Issue	
	Heads/ toilet system checked	☐ Ok	☐ Issue	
	Leaks or water damage	☐ Ok	☐ Issue	
BILGES, PUMPS & SEACOCKS	Bilges dry/ clean	☐ Ok	☐ Issue	
	Bilge pumps and float switches	☐ Ok	☐ Issue	
	Seacocks/ through-hulls checked	☐ Ok	☐ Issue	
	Drainage paths clear	☐ Ok	☐ Issue	
EXTERIOR, DECK & COVERS	Covers/ canvas secure	☐ Ok	☐ Issue	
	Deck drains and scuppers clear	☐ Ok	☐ Issue	
	Mooring lines/ fenders condition	☐ Ok	☐ Issue	
	Exterior hardware and fittings	☐ Ok	☐ Issue	
INTERIOR & VENTILATION	Interior dry and clean	☐ Ok	☐ Issue	
	Fridge/ galley condition	☐ Ok	☐ Issue	
	Ventilation/ moisture control	☐ Ok	☐ Issue	
	Hatches/ windows/ seals	☐ Ok	☐ Issue	
SECURITY & FINAL CHECKS	Locks/ hatches secure	☐ Ok	☐ Issue	
	Shore power/ utilities checked	☐ Ok	☐ Issue	
	Vessel condition after severe weather	☐ Ok	☐ Issue	
	Follow-up jobs required	☐ Ok	☐ Issue	

Use this page to record observations, maintenance notes, follow-up jobs, parts required or anything that needs attention before recommissioning.

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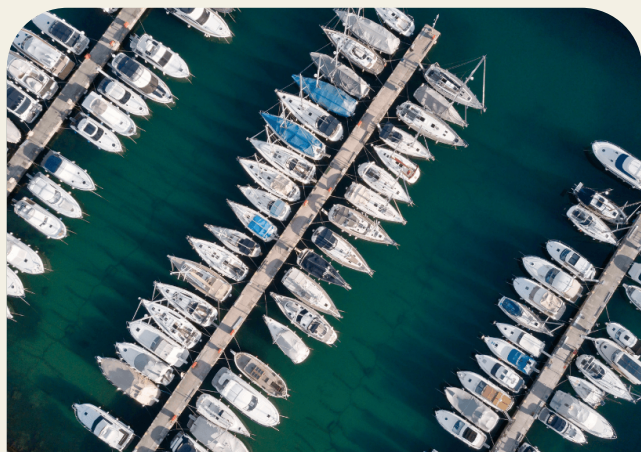
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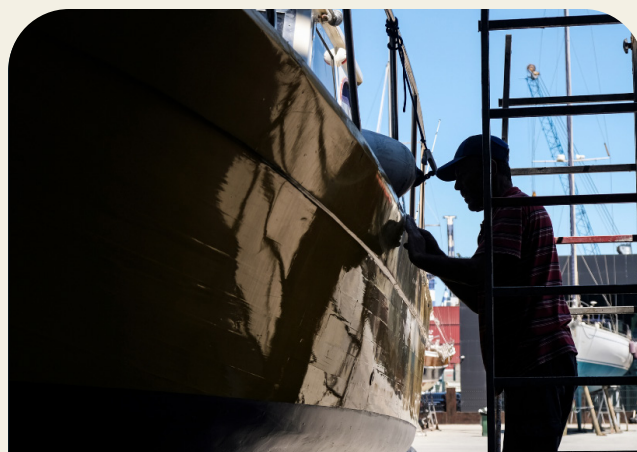
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