



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.

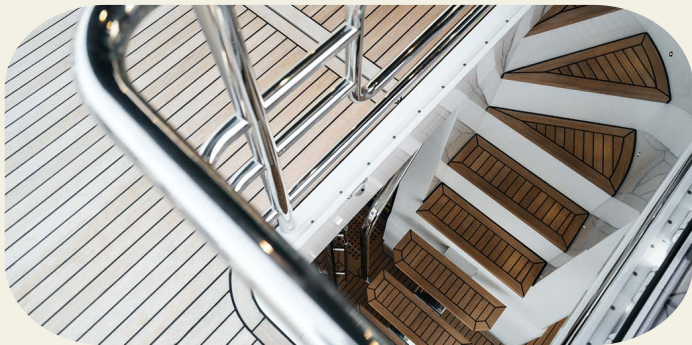


### CLEAR DRAINAGE PATHS AND LIMBER HOLES

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

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

# 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.

|                                    |  |                               |     |
|------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|-----|
| <b>VESSEL NAME:</b>                |  | <b>INSPECTION DATE:</b>       | / / |
| <b>PERSON COMPLETING CHECKS:</b>   |  | <b>LAUNCH LOCATION:</b>       |     |
| <b>WEATHER AND SEA CONDITIONS:</b> |  |                               |     |
| <b>PORT ENGINE HOURS</b>           |  | <b>STARBOARD ENGINE HOURS</b> |     |

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

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

This image shows a full page of white paper with horizontal blue ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page, typical of notebook or legal stationery. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the page.

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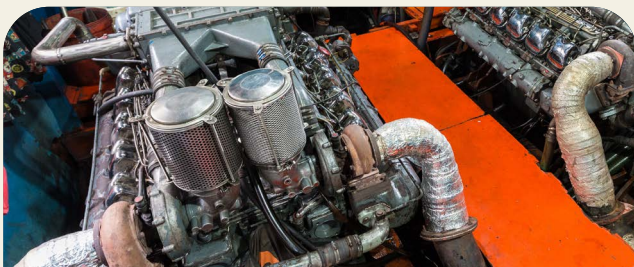
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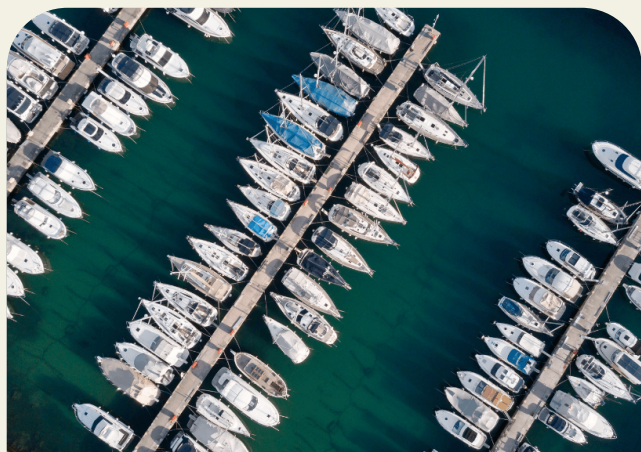
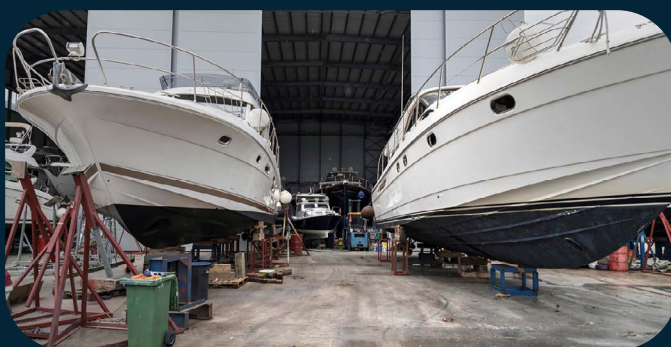
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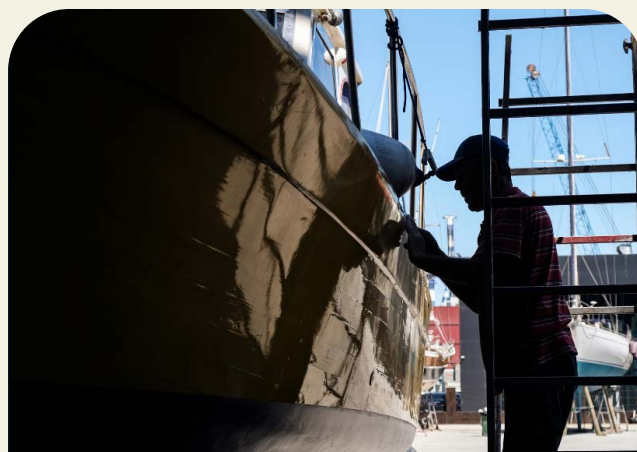
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