

Getting Your Boat Ready After Winter Storage

Before getting back on the water a complete inspection of your boat should be performed after storing it for the winter. Here's a check list of items that should be inspected:

- All thru-hulls, seacocks, hoses and clamps.
- Check your prop for damage, remove and lubricate the shaft. If you have a hub in your prop have it tested or replaced if there are signs of wear.
- Check cutlass bearing for wear.
- Check steering system, including rudders, cables, tiller arms, lubricate as needed.
- Inspect hull for blisters and cracks.
- Check engine water intake system, clean strainers and replace if cracked or corroded.
- If you have an outdrive, check all bellows, hoses and clamps for cracks and corrosion.
- Check all fluids, oil, antifreeze and don't forget trim fluids.
- Check control cables for cracks and replace if you find cracks, lubricating cracked cables will make matters worse.
- Check shaft stuffing boxes for proper adjustments, replace packing as needed.
- Inspect fuel lines, fill hoses, vent hose and filler caps assembly.
- Check fuel pumps and fuel filters and change fuel filter elements.
- Exhaust manifolds should be inspected for leaks, they should be disassembled every few years and inspected or replaced as needed to prevent severe engine failure.
- Clean and tighten battery cables, replace if corroded, bad connections can be a fire hazard, check the electrolyte in the battery.
- Check bilge pump hoses and bilge pumps, clean bilge pump impeller and float switch of any oil and debris.
- Replace fire extinguisher if corroded or out of date.
- Check your flares and make sure they are in good condition and not out of date.
- Check propane hoses and tanks, make sure they are free of cracks and corrosion, don't store propane tanks on your boat.
- Clean bilges, this will guard against fire and prevent damage to hoses, pumps and electrical items that grease and oil can come in contact with.
- Don't forget your trailer, check your lights and lubricate bearing.



What's Your Keel?

Sailors need to check out their rigging, remove the tape from turnbuckles, lubricate and turn a little to prevent them from seizing.

- Check rigging for rust and cracks, wire halyards should be checked for broken wires that can catch fingers.
- Check chain plates, make sure they are caulked properly, they should be re caulked every few years and inspected for rust or electrolysis.

The Boat Guys @ York Road Marine

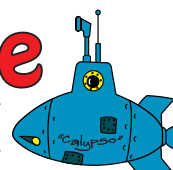
With a combined 75 years of experience The Boat Guys at York Road Marine keep up-to-date on all the latest marine changes and advancements so they can provide the best service and advice to their customers.

If you have any questions about the subject of this article please e-mail The Boat Guys at:

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