NUTS & BOATS

WINTERISATION CHECKLIST · SPORTSBOATS & RIBS, OUTBOARD OR STERNDRIVE

WINTER LAY-UP.

Boat / ski: Engine hours: Date:

Before you start: follow your engine maker's recommendations · wear the right PPE at all times · dispose of old oil, fluids, filters and parts properly (your local tip or recycling centre)

FUEL

- [ ] **Fill the tank** to cut down condensation, and add a fuel stabiliser **before** you run her up, so treated fuel reaches the engine.
- [ ] **Change or drain the water-separating fuel filter.**

ENGINE

- [ ] **Service her before she's laid up** (recommended). Old oil holds acids that sit on the bearings all winter, a tired impeller sets hard, and water in the gear oil does its damage while she's stood. Service first, and spring is just a quick check and run.
- [ ] **Check all the fluid levels** before you fire her up: engine oil, gear oil, power trim and power steering fluid, and coolant on closed-cooled engines. Milky gear oil means water's getting past a seal.
- [ ] **Flush with fresh water** (muffs or flushing port) and run her up to normal operating temperature.
- [ ] **Drain the raw water cooling system and flush it with 50/50 antifreeze** (sterndrive and inboard: block and manifolds too; outboards: stand her upright to drain). Water left in can freeze and crack the block.
- [ ] **Fog the engine** if your manual calls for it.
- [ ] **Carb engines:** drain the float bowls, so stale fuel doesn't varnish the jets.
- [ ] **Impeller:** if it wasn't changed in the service, note it for spring.
- [ ] **Check the anodes.** Replace any that are half gone.
- [ ] **Last job: corrosion guard.** Coat the engine, all wiring connections and sensors with corrosion guard. Keep it off rubber seals.

LEG, PROP & STEERING

- [ ] **Prop off:** check for dings and fishing line round the shaft, grease the splines, refit.
- [ ] **Grease** the steering, tilt and trim pivots and any grease points.
- [ ] **Leave the leg down** so it drains, unless your manual says otherwise.

BATTERY & ELECTRICS

- [ ] **Take the battery off** or disconnect it, and keep it topped up on a smart charger.
- [ ] **Spray the connections** with a water repellent.

HULL, DECK & COVER

- [ ] **Wash the hull while she's wet:** growth comes off far easier.
- [ ] **Clean and dry the bilge**, and check the bilge pump works.
- [ ] **Bungs out** on the trailer or hard standing so rain drains away (afloat, they stay in).
- [ ] **Take home** cushions, electronics, flares and anything that could get damp or be stolen.
- [ ] **Put damp pots or dehumidifiers aboard.**
- [ ] **Cover her** with a fitted, vented cover, propped so water runs off, and **block the gaps** against mice. Note it on the helm for spring.

TRAILER & SECURITY

- [ ] **Hose the brakes and hubs** with fresh water, grease the hubs, check the tyres.
- [ ] **Wheel clamp and hitch lock on.**
- [ ] **Photograph** the hull ID, engine serial plates and hours. Keep them safe, in case she's stolen.

A general guide from a working marine engineer. Always follow your engine maker's recommendations: intervals, oils and fogging differ between makes. If you're not sure about a job, ask your marine engineer.

KNOW YOUR BOAT.

The Nuts & Boats app walks you through lay-up a step at a time, keeps her service history, and reminds you what's due next season. For sportsboats, RIBs and jet skis. Coming this winter. Scan to find out more.