

Spring Boat & Trailer Preparation Checklist

Boat Trailer

- ■ Check tire pressure (match sidewall rating)
- ■ Inspect tires for cracks, dry rot, or uneven wear
- ■ Torque lug nuts to proper specification
- ■ Inspect and grease wheel bearings or bearing buddies
- ■ Spin wheels and check for grinding or wobble
- ■ Test all trailer lights (brake, turn, running)
- ■ Inspect wiring and ground connections
- ■ Inspect winch strap for fraying or cuts
- ■ Check safety chains and coupler latch
- ■ Inspect trailer frame for rust or cracks
- ■ Check brake actuator and brake fluid (if equipped)
- ■ Verify license plate and registration

General Boat Systems

- ■ Charge and test batteries
- ■ Clean battery terminals and check connections
- ■ Inspect fuel lines for cracks or stiffness
- ■ Replace or clean fuel filters
- ■ Check safety gear (life jackets, horn, extinguisher)
- ■ Test bilge pump operation
- ■ Inspect hull for damage or loose hardware
- ■ Check navigation lights
- ■ Verify drain plug is installed and in good condition

Outboard Motor

- ■ Check lower unit gear oil (look for milky color)
- ■ Inspect propeller and remove fishing line
- ■ Check telltale cooling water stream
- ■ Inspect spark plugs
- ■ Lubricate moving parts and steering tube
- ■ Replace water pump impeller if due
- ■ Inspect fuel system and primer bulb

Inboard Engine

- ■ Check and change engine oil if needed
- ■ Inspect belts and hoses for cracks or wear
- ■ Check coolant level (closed cooling systems)
- ■ Clean raw water strainer
- ■ Test bilge blower
- ■ Inspect for fuel or oil leaks
- ■ Check transmission fluid

I/O (Stern Drive)

- ■ Inspect bellows for cracks or dry rot
- ■ Check outdrive gear lube
- ■ Grease fittings
- ■ Check gimbal bearing movement
- ■ Inspect U■joints
- ■ Test trim and tilt operation
- ■ Inspect prop and shaft

Before First Launch

- ■ Run engine on hose or test tank
- ■ Check for smooth idle and shifting
- ■ Monitor engine temperature
- ■ Verify steering response
- ■ Pack spare hub kit and tools
- ■ Bring extra drain plug
- ■ Perform short shakedown run near ramp