

Boat Winterization Checklist

A. General Prep

- Inspect hull above & below waterline for damage
- Remove valuables and loose gear
- Clean cockpit & decks
- Empty lockers for airflow
- Take reference photos

B. Engine & Mechanical Systems – Inboard / I-O Engines

- Change engine oil & filter
- Change fuel filters
- Run engine to circulate fresh oil
- Flush raw-water cooling system
- Check coolant freeze protection
- Add antifreeze to raw-water side
- Fog cylinders (gas engines)
- Inspect belts, hoses, clamps
- Apply corrosion inhibitor

B. Engine & Mechanical Systems – Outboards

- Flush with fresh water
- Add fuel stabilizer & run 10 min
- Drain lower unit & check for water
- Refill with fresh gear oil
- Fog engine
- Grease fittings
- Store vertically

C. Fuel System

- Fill tanks 90–95%
- Add stabilizer
- Run engines to circulate treated fuel
- Inspect vents & filters

D. Electrical & Batteries

- Fully charge batteries
- Clean terminals & apply dielectric grease
- Test voltage/load
- Disconnect or use smart charger
- Inspect shore power cords & plugs
- Verify GFCI protection

E. Freshwater & Plumbing

- Drain freshwater tank
- Bypass water heater if possible
- Pump antifreeze through system
- Run antifreeze through faucets & showers
- Drain water heater if not bypassed

F. Waste & Sanitation

- Pump out holding tank
- Rinse tank
- Add antifreeze to head & lines
- Run antifreeze through discharge
- Pour antifreeze into sump

G. Bilge, Pumps & Thru-Hulls

- Clean bilges
- Test pumps & float switches
- Clear debris from strainers & scuppers
- Close unused seacocks
- Lubricate handles
- Inspect hoses & clamps

H. Interior & Moisture Prevention

- Remove cushions, bedding, food
- Open cabinets for airflow
- Place moisture absorbers
- Leave fridge cracked open
- Vacuum interior

I. Exterior, Covers & Canvas

- Wash topsides & deck
- Inspect canvas
- Install support poles
- Ensure venting under covers
- Check dock lines

J. Trailered Boats

- Drain engines
- Fog engines
- Grease wheel bearings
- Check tires
- Inspect lights & winch strap

- Block trailer

K. In-Water Winter Storage

- Verify bubblers / de-icers
- Inspect dock lines weekly
- Ensure drains are clear
- Use safe marine heaters
- Check bilge function
- Monitor waterline

L. Final Steps

- Lock boat
- Label all closed valves/systems
- Create a spring launch checklist
- Shut off unnecessary electrical loads