



## Winterization Checklist for Marine Engines

Every engine on the boat, including the mains, generators and outboards, should be protected against corrosion and cold. What follows is a general list, but you should read your service manual for specific instructions on how to winterize your engine.

- Change the oil
- Change the oil filter(s)
- Change the lubricant in engine transmission or the outboard lower unit
- Apply lubricant to outdrive grease points and steering mechanism
- Apply fogging oil to rings, pistons and valves if called for by manufacturer
- Fill the boat's fuel tanks completely full
- Add biocide and/or stabilizing agents to fuel
- Change the fuel filters(s)
- Add antifreeze to the engine's cooling system
- Exercise all seacocks and leave them closed
- Check seawater strainers and clean as required
- Add distilled water to batteries
- Charge batteries to capacity
- Clean battery terminals
- Remove batteries or detach terminals
- In cold climates, consider marine-grade engine heaters unless engine is equipped with block heaters.
- Inspect and clean the air filter
- Top off trim tab reservoir and other hydraulic systems
- Check steering fluid and add if necessary
- Check lubricant for bow and/or stern thruster and add if necessary
- Inspect engine mounts and tighten if necessary
- Check all screws, nuts, hose clamps and hoses and repair as necessary
- Inspect all belts for wear and improper tension
- Remove the impeller (optional) and make a note to yourself so you remember to replace it at the beginning of next season
- If stored in water, visit the boat regularly to check for problems.
  - If stored in water, start the engine(s) once a month for 30 minutes, or until full operating temperature is reached, to keep the oil up in the engine. Allow engine(s) to properly warm up and cool down.