



AMERICAN TUGS AND TRAWLERS

Vessel Winterizing Checklist

When the days get shorter and the sun is a little lower in the sky, it is time to prepare your boat for winter. It is an excellent time to give her a thorough going over and show your boat some appreciation for a wonderful summer of cruising the Salish Sea. Winter prep is important to avoid freeze damage, and is a good opportunity to perform annual engine and systems maintenance.

Most of us in the Pacific Northwest use our boats year round; it is one of the great things about cruising here. If you plan to keep using your vessel during the coldest months you will want to keep a heat source going that is strong enough to overcome the outside freezing temperatures. If you dry-store or put your boat up you will want to drain systems and add chemicals to prevent freezing. Boats on the hard are subject to ambient air temperatures, where boats in the water do not have cold air circulating under their hull and are easier to keep warm.

Be proactive to keep your boat in the best condition. Keeping a small dehumidifier running is the best way to keep your boat dry and fresh inside, compact 25-70 pint electric dehumidifiers do not draw much power and work very well. Electric space heaters should be set with the goal of keeping the interior in the mid 50F degree range. Block your engine room air intakes to minimize heat loss and prevent cold wet air from entering.

FRESH WATER SYSTEM:

- Drain water tanks, water heater (including pressure relief hose), window wash lines, etc.
- Blow water lines down, actuate all faucets, showers, and related systems
- Drain water filter cartridges
- Drain water from P-trap under sinks
- Fill fresh water system with RV anti-freeze solution, cycle all drain & faucet valves to introduce AF into valves
- Blow down cockpit shower lines, washdowns, etc., remove & drain hoses and stow away
- Drain & stow your dock hose too!

MAIN ENGINE: (if not used for winter, or add heat to engine room & keep cruising!)

- Block the engine room air intakes (minimize heat loss and prevent cold wet air from entering)
- Drain sea strainer & sea-water intake lines
- Drain water from heat exchangers (coolant, turbo aftercooler, engine oil, transmission cooler, etc)
- Drain muffler
- Test coolant to -45F degrees
- Fill fuel tanks to prevent "breathing" and condensation. Consider additives for long term storage

GENERATOR:

- Drain sea strainer & intake lines
- Drain muffler
- Test coolant to -45F degrees

AIR CONDITIONING:

- Drain sea strainer & intake lines
- Blow down lines

WASTE SYSTEM:

- Empty holding tank
- Flush RV anti-freeze solution through the toilet (5 Gallons)
- Fill shower sump with anti-freeze solution and let sump pump fill discharge lines
- Pump anti-freeze solution through macerator pump until pink exits the thru-hull

WATERMAKER:

- Follow manufacturers specific instruction for pickling and preparing for winter

GENERAL:

- Clean & Wax exterior to protect from the elements
- Close windows and portlights
- Stow exterior gear that is non-essential
- Make sure exterior canvas is tight to prevent chafe in the wind
- Check your fenders & mooring lines, you may want to double up mooring with a second set of lines set a little longer
- Allow air to flow under mattresses and behind cushions
- Leave cabinet doors open so that heat and air can circulate
- Drain bilges and blow down bilge pump lines or introduce RV anti-freeze solution into system

DISCLAIMER: Tomco Marine Group, Inc. provides this as a reference, but takes no responsibility should you incur damage. This list may not be complete or accurate.

When running your engine in the winter months be sure to allow the engine adequate time to reach full operating temperature prior to shutting her off. Resist the temptation to run the engine for only a few minutes at the dock. By taking the engine up to operating temperature it will retain enough heat to dry its interior, as opposed to allowing cold wet winter air to condense inside the warm engine and cause corrosion.

Enjoy and use your boat through the winter, that is the best way to keep both you and your boat happy!