

Boat Maintenance – Winterizing

- ☐ 1. Park the boat where the boat can drain water and block the wheels to prevent rolling.
- ☐ 2. If servicing the boat either attach it to a tow vehicle or chain the bow down so it does not lift up when you walk to the back of the boat during servicing.
- ☐ 3. Level the boat with the tongue jack.
- ☐ 4. Remove the propeller to prevent injuries, clean excess grease from the spline and propeller parts.
- ☐ 5. Open boat covers, remove seats, stand seats on end to permit water in cushions to drain out, preferably in the sun.
- ☐ 6. Remove engine house to permit easy access to the engine.
- ☐ 7. With the Mercury engine oil pump – pump out the engine oil into a container to be sent back for recycle.
- ☐ 8. Remove the oil filter, drain oil onto the recycle oil container and discard the filter.
- ☐ 9. Install the new oil filter checking that it is the correct type and number; apply some clean oil around the rubber gasket on the filter before installing.
- ☐ 10. Add 5.6 liters of new clean engine oil (for Mercury Cruisers inboards us 25w 40 oil).
- ☐ 11. Remove the water separating gas filter and replace with the new one, again place a small amount of clean oil on the rubber gasket before installing.
- ☐ 12. Drive Leg:
 - ☐ a. Make sure you have 1 liter or more of Mercury Stern drive oil before starting.
 - ☐ b. Open the stern drive oil reservoir lid and top up the oil to full.
 - ☐ c. Lower the drive leg to the down position.
 - ☐ d. Remove the lower drain plug screw and place so it will not get lost.
 - ☐ e. Drain the oil into a small pail (looking fir signs of water in the oil – it is a bad sign of a leak – if so look on the leg for cracks with oil leaking out), send oil to the recycle. Do not need to drain much oil of the oil is free of water and is clean.
 - ☐ f. Top up the reservoir as it drains
 - ☐ g. Replace the lower drain plug with it NEW “O-Ring” and tighten.
 - ☐ h. Top up the drive leg oil reservoir to full.
 - ☐ i. Grease the drive leg fittings.
- ☐ 13. Check the power trim oil level – should be at the bottom of the filler cap neck – if not add some 10w 30 motor oil to top up. Replace filler cap.
- ☐ 14. Check if the motor has a PVC valve and if so replace with the correct one.
- ☐ 15. Pour required amount of gas tank or fuel stabilizer into the gas tank to prevent gas algie build up in gas lines, gas pump and carburetor bowls over winter.
- ☐ 16. Test running the Engine:
 - ☐ a. Place the lower leg water boot over the water intake holes. Place a rag over the sline to prevent spraying water from the propeller exhaust.
 - ☐ b. Connect a garden hose to the water boot and turn on ½ way (DO NOT turn on full you will damage internal parts of the motor). More is not better.
 - ☐ c. Start engine, but do not exceed 1500 rpm. – Keep away from moving parts and belts.
 - ☐ d. Watch gauges and listen to the engine sounds if something is not right shut down the engine and check it out.
 - ☐ e. Caution - As water temperature raises the thermostat will open and warm to hot water will come from the lower drive leg and prop housing.
 - ☐ f. Shut down the engine.
 - ☐ g. Shut off the water and remove the garden hose. Allow any extra water to drain
 - ☐ h. Attach the 2-meter hose and place it in a clean 25-liter pail.

- ☐ i. Pour 8 liters of non-toxic RV antifreeze into the clean pail.
- ☐ j. Remove the spark arrester from the top of the carburetor.
- ☐ k. Restart the engine and spray engine stabilizer (fogger) down the carburetor as per the directions on the spray can. (This will help prevent rust forming in the engine and carburetors over the winter).
- ☐ l. Keep an eye on the RV antifreeze in the pail do not run the engine so long as to drain all the antifreeze from the pail – the motor will then have no cooling protection and could damage the engine.
- ☐ m. Shut down the engine.
- ☐ n. Spray a bit more fogger into the carburetor and replace the spark arrester on the carburetor.
- ☐ o. Allow the engine to cool, then remove the water plus from the engine block, exhaust manifolds and the water hoses. Some antifreeze will run out into the boat, that's OK, it will be washed out later. Place the plugs in a bag and tie-rap to the top of the motor so they are not lost.
- ☐ p. Remove the water boot, hose and pail, wash off with water from the garden hose and put away.
- ☐ 17. Remove the battery and place on a charger for 1 day at 2 amps, then store, charge every month for 1 day at 2 amps until replacing back into the boat.
- ☐ 18. Power wash the entire boat with a quality soap and clean fuzzy mitt. Spend time on the carpet removing the algae buildup, but do not spray so hard you damage or lift the carpet.
- ☐ 19. If a greenish tint is seen at and below the water line, it can be removed with "Vim – Bathroom Cleaner". Caution when applying it to decals though it may remove them! Use proper protective clothing and eye protection when using chemicals.
- ☐ 20. Rewash the entire boat after using algae cleaners.
- ☐ 21. Power polish the exterior with a one step cleaner / wax to provide added shine and protection.
- ☐ 22. Use a good vinyl cleaner and wipe down all the vinyl upholstery and replace the seats.
- ☐ 23. Allow the boat to completely dry indoors in a heated place to evaporate any trace of water.
- ☐ 24. Replace any items you want to store in the boat over winter, skis, jackets, anchors, Etc.
- ☐ 25. Replace the main tarp support from the windshield to the motor house.
- ☐ 26. Replace the covers and tie down.
- ☐ 27. Drive the boat to its winter storage location.
- ☐ 28. Trim the lower leg to the down position to drain any water in it.
- ☐ 29. Replace its winter weather cover (blue tarps) and rope down securely to prevent the winter winds from loosening or removing the tarps.
- ☐ 30. Jack up the trailer to remove the weight from the springs and tires.
- ☐ 31. Chain the wheels to the frame to prevent anyone from removing them.

Enjoy the pictures you took this summer until you get back on the water next spring...

Boat Maintenance – Winterizing – PARTS

1. Mercury Marine Motor oil – 6 liters of 25w 40 marine motor oil
2. Mercury Marine motor oil filter #_____
3. Mercury Marine water separator gas filter #_____
4. Mercury Marine High Performance drive leg oil #_____
5. RV antifreeze – 8 liters from Walmart
6. Vim – Tub and Shower Cleaner
7. Vinyl Cleaners _____
8. Boat One step cleaner _____