



Complete this checklist of more than 40 tips, from masthead to keel, and you and your boat will sleep more soundly this winter

# Check in for **WINTER**

## » RIG

You can leave the mast up or down. If you're leaving it stepped, do the checks aloft while still in the water - it's easier and safer.

### 1 STANDING RIGGING

- Check sheaves, swages, split-pins, masthead lights and spreader mounts. Tip: look for wear and tear, such as signs of corrosion, cracked tangs, worn/broken pins
- Sluice any moving parts (sheaves, furling drums, bottlescrews, etc) with fresh water

### 2 RUNNING RIGGING

- Substitute halyards with messenger lines to prolong life
- Inspect all running rigging for chafe
- Wash halyards. Tip: fill up your tender to wash them in and add some handwashing detergent, such as Dreft

### 3 SAILS

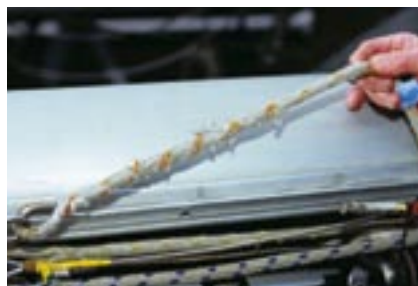
- Wash and dry thoroughly
- Remove, roll up and store in a dry place - or consider sending to sailmakers for valet service

**Date RIG completed:**  
**Memos for fitting out/relaunch:**

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**ABOVE: Keep an eye out for wear or cracks.**  
**BELOW: Check for chafe on running rigging**



## » BELOW DECKS

Damp and condensation is the interior's enemy in winter and the key is to try to minimise the damaging effects.

### 1 MOISTURE MEASURES

- Clean boat (salt is hygroscopic, attracting moisture especially in poorly ventilated areas)
- Remove any cardboard or tin cans, including all food
- Remove upholstery and bedding
- Leave all doors (fridge and cooker), lockers, compartments, etc, open
- Dry bilges thoroughly. Leave an absorbent pad/sock or even a couple of nappies in the bilge to soak up condensation
- If you're connected to shore power, put a dehumidifier on board



**ABOVE: Take home all food stores (cardboard and tin) that may dissolve or rust**

## » ON DECK

### 1 LOCKERS

- Clear out everything that is not needed
- If possible, leave ajar or open for ventilation
- Take home any removable brightwork (such as tiller, locker lids, etc.) to save your varnish

### 2 NAVIGATION LIGHTS

- Check all are working and for any water ingress
- Remove bulbs and lubricate terminals with Vaseline

### 3 SHORE SAFETY

- Check safety of shores, including those of neighbouring boats. Don't tie tarpaulin/canvas covers to shores – it's been known for gales to pull them out.
- Remove liferafts, lifebuoys, danbuoys, tenders, oars, etc., and store securely
- Flush the tender's outboard with fresh water and take to a marine engineer to be serviced and winterised before the end of the season



**ABOVE:** How safe are the shores propping up your boat and those of others nearby?  
**LEFT:** Is the outboard due a service? Flush out regardless

Date ON DECK completed:  
Memos for fitting out/relaunch:

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## » MECHANICS

### 1 COOLING SYSTEM

- Replace fresh cooling water with an antifreeze/water mix
- Drain raw water and remove impeller so as to prevent blades distorting
- Check anti-syphon valves if applicable – wash through if clogged
- Plug air inlet and exhaust outlet with oil-soaked rag to prevent dirt and moisture ingress

### 2 FUEL

- Fill fuel tanks to prevent condensation. Add some bactericide as this helps eliminate the fuel 'bug' and water contamination
- Change primary fuel filter and bleed system ready for next season
- Check secondary fuel filter for any water/sediment



**RIGHT:** WD40 wards off condensation



**LEFT:** Check for any play in your rudder bearing

**RIGHT:** Check for any play in the prop shaft



### 3 ENGINE

- Change engine oil and filter to prevent acidic waste deposits. Run engine in both gears to distribute oil
- Change gearbox oil (make a note of date)
- Spray engine with WD40 and/or leave cloth over engine to minimise condensation
- Turn the engine over without actually starting it on each visit – free air inlets first

### 4 APPENDAGES

- Give the rudder a shake in all directions to check for any play in the bearings – and check for play in the prop shaft
- Monitor the lift out. Check for weeping at the keel join as she grounds – a sign that the keel bolts may need tightening

Date ENGINE CARE completed:  
Memos for fitting out/relaunch:

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## 2 PLUMBING

- Drain all pipes, pumps, watertanks and the calorifier to prevent freezing (if your watertank is flexible, consider removing and taking home)
- Flush lots of water through the heads plus cooking oil/washing-up liquid to lubricate
- Drain sea toilet and connecting hoses
- If fitted, flush holding tank through thoroughly and add some 'Blue' chemical
- Disconnect hoses from skin fittings to let them breathe



**LEFT:** Prop the fridge door open and all other lockers to prevent odours

**RIGHT:** A dehumidifier draining directly into the sink will combat damp



## 3 BATTERIES

- If you have a smart charger and mains power, or a solar panel, keep plugged in
- Otherwise, disconnect batteries, check electrolyte level and take home (if manageable)
- Float charge once a month
- Coat terminals in Vaseline – and all other exposed terminals from electronics/instruments



**ABOVE:** Grease battery terminals and drain watertanks and calorifier

Date BELOW DECKS completed:  
Memos for fitting out/relaunch:

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