

Spring Check List

It is time to Spring into the Boating Season

If it has been a rough winter, boats will need special care to get them into top working condition. Time spent on this checklist will save time and money in the future.

While boat is out of the water:

- Inspect the hull for stress cracks, blisters and distortions
- Inspect props for dings and pitting. Are cotter pins secure? Is the prop tight? If not, the cutlass bearing may need to be replaced.
- Make sure the rudder stock is not bent.
- Check zincs. Replace if deteriorated.
- Inspect hoses and hose clamps. Replace if necessary. Inspect and lubricate seacocks.

Outboards and Outdrives:

- Inspect power steering and power trim oil levels.
- Inspect and replace zincs if necessary.
- Inspect control cables and replace if deteriorated.
- Inspect rubber outdrive bellows and replace if deteriorated.

Engines and Fuel Systems:

- Inspect fuel tanks, pumps and filters for leaks. Clamps should be tight and rust free.
- Clean or replace fuel filters.
- Inspect fuel lines, including fill and vent hoses. Check joints for leaks and make sure all lines are supported with non-combustible clips and straps.
- Inspect cooling hoses for leaks and deterioration. Hoses should be double clamped and clamps should be snug.
- Inspect exhaust manifold for corrosion.
- Inspect bilge blower hose for leaks.
- Clean and tighten electrical connections.

Sailboat Rigging

- Inspect fittings for cracks and rust. Inspect wire halyards and running backstays.
- Remove old tape on turnbuckles and lubricate with Teflon. Replace old tape with new.
- Inspect deck-mounted chain plates and recaulk as necessary.

In the water:

- Check engine shaft and rudder stuffing boxes for leaks and looseness.
- Check for deck leaks at hatches and ports. Recaulk or replace gaskets as necessary.

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Trailer:

- Test back-up and tail lights. Test winch for proper operation.
- Inspect tires for cracks and lack of tread, replace as necessary. Don't forget to check your space or purchase one!
- Inspect bearings and repack if needed.

Other Miscellaneous but very important items:

- Check battery cables and terminals. Replace every 2-4 years or as needed.
- Inspect bilge pump and float switch for proper operation.
- Check fittings and hoses on stove and remote tanks.
- Check expiration dates on fire extinguishers and flares. Replace as necessary.
- Check carbon monoxide detector for proper operation.
- Check life jackets for proper condition and fit for all adults, children and pets.
- Inspect dock, lines, anchor lines and fenders for chafing and deterioration. Replace or repair as necessary.
- Inspect lifts for deterioration and proper operation.
- Update and replace charts and guides.
- Check boating license and registration for expiration. Don't forget dinghies and trailers.
- Check insurance for proper coverage and update as necessary.

The following exterior boat detailing should also be performed:

- Buff entire hull and top side of boat. This will remove oxidation, dock rubs, scratches and water spots.
- Apply high quality polish which feeds the pores of the gelcoat increasing the shine and durability of the detail. Apply polymer sealant.
- Polish all stainless, brass and aluminum.
- Clean up deck and cockpit. Detail cabins, salons, heads, engines and bilges.

NOTE:

These are guidelines for maintenance on your boat. To ensure proper maintenance on your specific model, consult your owner's manual and your local certified marine mechanic.

HAPPY BOATING!

O'RYAN MARINE
P.O. BOX 1051
BOTHELL, WA 98041
425-485-2871
1-866-48-ORYAN
www.oryanmarine.com