

This is how you winterize your yacht for both outdoor and indoor storage and, at the same time, perfectly prepare it for the next season – use our

CHECKLIST

BASIC WINTER PREPARATIONS

- Drain and clean water tank to prevent damage from freezing (and therefore expanding) water.
- Drain boiler and outdoor shower.
- IMPORTANT: Drain valves on tank and pump.
- Drain and clean waste tank.
- Remove or set up cushions and mattresses to prevent moisture damage such as mould or mildew stains.
- Remove all gas bottles/tanks and ensure proper winter storage.

MAKING THE YACHT TECHNICALLY WINTERPROOF

- IMPORTANT: Fill up diesel tanks completely.
(Explanation: Do not empty diesel tanks under any circumstances, as condensation will build up over the winter and deposit on the surface once the tanks are refilled – furthermore, we recommend refraining from the use of additives, as they may cause contamination/impurities in the inlets/outlets.)
- Change engine oil and oil filter.
- Check engine and make it winter-proof with anti-freeze, if required.
- Check and replace impeller in case it shows any signs of damage.
- Check air filter for contamination and clean it.
- Check V-belt and replace it in case it shows tears and/or frays.
- Charge or disconnect and charge battery – store battery in a warm, dry place. IMPORTANT: Lithium-ion batteries will have to be removed and stored separately by all means due to potential fire hazard and insurance protection reasons.
- Replace sacrificial anodes, if required.

WINTERIZING THE YACHT DECK AND HULL

- Drain bilge.
- Clean and lubricate winches.
- Remove shells/barnacles and algae from hull, e.g. with a high-pressure cleaner.
- Masts: Fill masts which are open at the bottom with robust material (e.g. plastic tarpaulins) to prevent animal nesting.
- Clean anchor chain and anchor locker from salt residues and other contamination.
- Check chain, swivel shackle, and safety line.
- Clean and lubricate anchor windlass/winch.
- Check and clean propeller(s).
- Renew underwater coating, if required, ideally with an appropriate antifouling application.
- Ensure dry storage of sails and ropes/rigging.
- During winter preparations in dry weather, leave hatches and doors open for aeration/ventilation.
- Finally, cover yacht with an appropriate protective tarpaulin.

Are there any other points that we have not mentioned here, which you may deem interesting or important though? Write us an e-mail – it will be our pleasure to address the requested topics and supplement our article/list accordingly.