

Main Identity

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September 2006

Will Your Boat Be Ready For Winter?

Tech Tips By Hardin Marine

Dear Scott,

Its that time again! As boaters we all dread the end of the season and the onset of the winter months. But like many things in life its unavoidable.

The winter months are fast approaching and it is once again time to start thinking about laying up your boat for winter. We have prepared this newsletter in an effort to remind you of the tasks that must be done to your boat if you live in the colder climates.

Technical Services Staff

Winterizing Your Boat

Now is the time to get started

It's time to pull in the docks, rafts, lifts, and boats for another season. But there is more to it than just taking boats out of the water. Winterizing a boat and motor is the most important maintenance a boat owner can perform to help ensure safe boating next spring.

Whether you choose to do it yourself or have your marina or storage facility do it for you, winterizing is the best way to prepare your boat for the season to come. Regardless of where your boat is stored (inside or outside), much care is needed to protect your boat engine.

The following are some basic steps to winterize your marine engine and equipment.

- *Fill the fuel tanks and add the appropriate amount of stabilizer. Run the engine long enough to get treated gas into the fuel line and engine. Left untreated over the winter, gasoline deteriorates into varnish and gum, making starting difficult.*
- *Flush the cooling system. ([Flushing kits are available](#)) Also remove block plugs*

and drain all the water from inboard and inboard outdrive engines. This cleans out accumulated sediment and rust flakes. Pump in anti-freeze to avoid trapped ice pockets. Use an environmentally safe product to avoid contaminating the marine environment.

- *Fog the engine with oil to prevent rust. Available in bulk or aerosol cans, fogging oil is formulated to stick to the cylinders and not slide down the walls. Follow the instructions that come with the product making sure to spray some of the oil into the cylinders through the sparkplug holes once the engine has cooled down. Check the spark plugs and replace them as necessary.*
- *Replace the oil and oil filter on inboard and sterndrive engines. Be sure to dispose of the used oil at an authorized recycling center.*
- *Change the lower unit gear case lubricant on outboards and sterndrive engines. Even a little water trapped in the gear case can cause damage, especially if allowed to freeze.*
- *Check the props for nicks. Even slight damage can hinder performance. Worse yet, blade damage can cause vibration, damaging other engine parts and the drive system. Some damaged props can be repaired by marine dealers for a fraction of the cost of a new one.*
- *Store outboards in an upright position. Consider having the water pump impeller replaced every two or three years. The rubber legs can get stiff, reducing water circulation, or they may break off, eliminating coolant flow completely.*
- *Spray a moisture displacing lubricant such as a silicone product onto electrical terminals and the fuse panel. Read the label to make sure the spray is safe for use on electrical components.*
- *Inspect steering systems, including tiller steering friction fittings on outboards. Tighten them if they're loose.*
- *Clean the backfire flame arrester on inboard engines with carburetor cleaner and then rinse thoroughly in hot soapy water (Dawn Dishwashing Liquid Works Great, let dry thoroughly in the sun before re-installing.*
- *Clean boats inside and out and cover when stored, even indoors. Allow for air circulation under the cover to prevent mildew and rot.*
- *Drain water from the bilges and leave the transom drain plug out. It's a good idea to place a reminder note in a conspicuous place to avoid embarrassment at the boat ramp next spring.*
- *Hang life jackets up where they can air out.*
- *Examine trailer tires and grease the wheel bearings, replacing them as necessary. Check bulbs and electrical contacts on the plugs as well as sockets where the bulbs screw in. Spray contacts with a moisture displacing lubricant and wrap electrical tape around the plugs to keep them dry.*
- *Put the trailer on blocks and remove the tires to prolong rubber life and hinder boat thieves.*
- *Check the owners manual for tips that are particular to your own brand of boat, engine and trailer.*

For boaters who aren't comfortable doing their own maintenance, all the procedures may be performed by a qualified marine technician at your local boat dealer. Taking a little time in the fall to get your boat and motor ready for winter means that you can be one of the first boaters out on the water next spring.

For these and all your performance boating needs our technical services department

is ready and willing to help. Give us a call today or visit our web site at www.hardin-marine.com

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Quick Connect 316L Stainless Steel Engine Flush Connector

Flushing your engine can be simple



Hardin Marine has developed this attractive, easy to use, quick connect thru-hull flushing system. These 316L stainless steel flushing thru-hulls allow the quick connection of a household garden hose to this fitting in mere seconds. While the opposite end of the thru-hull features a 1/2" NPT female connection that can be connected into the inlet side of your cooling system or sea strainer. When the garden hose is removed this unit looks like a simple thru hull yet has a spring loaded internal check valve.

Part No.	Description
620-913300	Quick Connect Engine Flush Fitting
128-5001	1-1/4" with 1/2" NPT Inline Cooling Adapter Fitting

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