

Winter Tips for Do-It-Yourselfers

- Lube through hull valves
- Take out batteries and store indoors
- Shrink wrap rather than using plastic tarps
- Use fuel additive (fill tank to only 90%)
- Take cushions/covers home and store in a dry place to avoid mildew and mold
- Allow for ventilation in cabin, if possible
- Remove hull drain plugs
- Do not use space heaters while in dry storage
- Put a good coat of wax on the hull
- Check running gear, cutlass bearing, and stuffing boxes for winter repair
- Clean bilge limber holes
- Remove sails and awnings and store ashore
- Check fuel lines for wear, cracking, drying out, and leaks
- Winterize alcohol and CNG stoves
- Lube steering and engine controls
- Check bonding system
- Renew worn running rigging and ground tackle
- Pump out MSDs prior to haulout or layup
- Change engine oil in the fall
- Check all water lines and hose clamps
- Schedule major repairs during winter in order to be ready for spring
- Repair or replace faulty gauges and instruments
- Clean all battery cable connections
- Check all navigation lights and repair as necessary
- Clean oil and debris out of bilges
- Check bilge blower, hoses, and cowls