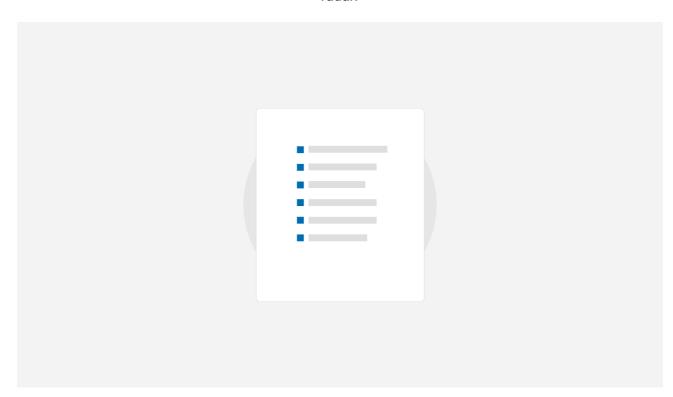
Yacht Maintenance Checklist

Good housekeeping is essential for trouble-free sailing, for keeping your boat afloat in optimum condition - and for avoiding unnecessary and expensive repair yard bills. But with multiple systems, parts and components to take care of, it can be all too easy for something important to fall off your radar.



1. Engine and fuel system

After heavy usage (such as a single, long trip)
Check coolant and oil levels, and top up if necessary
Check for, follow up and address any fluid leaks
Check oil pads and replace as necessary
If you have reached 100 hours of usage (or as per manufacturer's instructions), replace the oil and filter
Monthly routine
As per manufacturer's guidance, apply WD40 to engine, components and control panel to prevent corrosion
If the boat has not been used that month, start the engine and allow it to reach operating temperature
Clean the water strainer
Annual checks

Check engine belts for wear and tension. Replace as necessary.

Check the fuel tank for rust and/or contamination
Ensure the hoses are not cracked and provide enough slack to account for vibration
Thoroughly inspect the tank, hose and fittings for evidence of leaks
Prior to winter storage, check antifreeze level and replace as necessary. Fill the tank prior to storage as per manufacturer's instruction
2. Electrics
After heavy usage
Test all batteries for capacity level. Replace if necessary
Check that all wiring remains neatly bundled and secured and is well-clear of the exhaust system and bilge
Monthly routine
Check all running and interior lights and replace bulbs where required
Inspect bulkhead and engine connections to ensure there is adequate flex with no fraying
Check that wire connections and terminals remained sealed, with no evidence of corrosion
Annual checks
Check water level of battery
Clean exterior bulb contact points and apply anti-corrosion spray
3. Preventing corrosion
Monthly routine
Inspect the hull for evidence of corrosion such as leaks, blistered or peeling paintwork, deposits around stainless steel fixtures or whitish powder on an aluminium hull
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Check steering cables, engine cables and connections and gear casings for corrosion
Annual checks
Replace zincs (either annually or every six months as per manufacturer's instructions)

Monthly routine
Inspect for hull, keel and rudder damage and arrange for any necessary repairs immediately. Treat any scratches or gelcoat damage as per manufacturer's instructions
Check the condition of the teak and renew as necessary
Annual checks
All yachts require an annual haul-out for anti-fouling, zinc replacement (and repainting, where necessary). Contact your maintenance engineer well in advance of your preferred haul-out time (usually winter) in order to arrange this
5. Bilge pumps and through-hulls
Monthly routine
Even where using automatic pumps, inspect blges frequently to ensure they are clean and free to circulate
Check through-hull strainers, intake and discharge components to ensure they are not blocked by debris or marine growth
Ensure valve handles are securely attached to enable quick and smooth closure in an emergency
Inspect plugs and hoses for cracking
6. Ensuring crew safety
Pre-departure checks should include checking the presence and placement of all personal flotation devices, first aid kit and flares. These further checks should also be carried out on a monthly basis:
Thoroughly inspect flotation devices for wear or abrasion. If inflation devices are incorporated into a PFD, ensure the cartridges are secure and charged.
Check the use-by date on flares
Ensure fire extinguishers are in their designated accessible positions, and that they have been professionally inspected and appropriately tagged as up to date
Ensure lifelines or rails are in good condition
Test to ensure CO and fire alarms are working
Ensure you are up to date with galley stove inspection and servicing Make and Share Free Checklists checkli.com

4. Hull maintenance