

Inboards and Outdrives

engine checklist

Pre-start checks

1. Pilot House
2. Fuel
3. Oil
4. Water
5. Belts
6. Cooling
7. Oil
8. Belts
9. Water
10. Belts
11. Water
12. Belts
13. Water
14. Belts
15. Water
16. Belts
17. Water
18. Belts
19. Water
20. Belts



After starting

Call us for free sea safety advice and information on

0800 328 0600 United Kingdom

1800 789 589 Republic of Ireland



Lifeboats

Pre-start checks

- 1. Bilge blower.** If you have a bilge blower or engine room extractor fan, run it for a few minutes before starting the engine.
- 2. Visual check.** Check belts and hoses for cuts, splits, or fraying, and look out for oil or coolant leaks. Excessive black dust could indicate possible belt wear.
- 3. Fuel.** Make sure you have enough fuel for your intended trip, plus a reserve of about 20% of the tank's capacity, and make sure the fuel tap is open.
- 4. Fuel filter.** Some boats have a transparent water separator /filter in the fuel line. Inspect the bowl for water or dirt, and drain off any visible contamination.
- 5. Engine oil.** Check the engine oil level with the dipstick, and top up if necessary to keep the level between the 'max' and 'min' marks.
- 6. Gearbox oil.** Check the engine oil level with the dipstick.
NOTE: some gearbox oil levels can only be checked with the engine running. Many gearboxes need special oil: engine oil will NOT do!
- 7. Raw water filter.** Shut the cooling water seacock; remove the filter element and clean it if necessary. Replace the element, screw the lid back onto the filter body, and OPEN THE SEA COCK.
- 8. Fresh water level.** Some engines have fresh water cooling systems as well as raw water. Carefully remove the header tank cap, and top up with water/ anti-freeze mixture if necessary to bring the level within about 50mm of the top. Replace the header tank cap.
- 9. Battery switch.** Turn the battery switch on before starting. Do not switch it off while the engine is running.
- 10. Stern gland greaser.** Boats with 'traditional' transmission systems have stern gland greasers. Give the cap or handle one full turn. Alternative, more modern types of seal just require a visual inspection.
- 11.** If your boat has an outdrive engine, trim tabs, or power steering, check the level of the hydraulic fluid in the hydraulic reservoirs and top up if necessary.
- 12.** If your boat has an outdrive engine, check that the leg is clear of weed, rope or plastic bags etc and is fully down.

After starting

- 1.** Immediately check that there is a good flow of water from the exhaust pipe or cooling water tell-tale.
- 2.** Allow the engine to warm up slightly. It will tick-over smoothly before setting off.

Sea Safety, RNLI Headquarters, West Quay Road, Poole Dorset BH15 1HZ
Tel: 0845 122 6999 Fax: 0845 126 1999

email: seasafety@rnli.org.uk rnli.org.uk/seasafety

A charity registered in England and Wales (209603) and Scotland (SC037736).
Charity number CHY 2678 in the Republic of Ireland



Lifeboats