



Aluminum Fishing Boat Post-Trip Checklist

Clean it. Check it. Charge it. Dry it. Get the boat ready for the next fishing trip.

TIN CAN BOAT WORKS | SMALL BOATS. SERIOUS FISHING.

BEFORE LEAVING THE RAMP

- Boat fully secured to trailer.
- Bow strap/winch connection secure.
- Transom tie-downs installed.
- Outboard placed in proper towing position.
- Trolling motor fully stowed and secured.
- Drain plug removed when appropriate for storage/travel.
- Livewell, baitwell and bilge allowed to drain as appropriate.
- Loose gear secured.
- Trailer lights checked before entering traffic.

BOAT & HULL

- Rinse or wash hull as conditions require.
- After saltwater use, thoroughly rinse appropriate surfaces with freshwater.
- Inspect hull after any impact, grounding or unusual event.
- Remove mud, vegetation, fish slime, scales and bait residue.
- Check bilge for an unusual amount of water.
- Open wet compartments and allow them to dry.

OUTBOARD

- Follow manufacturer flushing procedure when required, especially after saltwater use.
- Inspect propeller for damage.
- Check prop shaft area for fishing line.
- Look for visible leaks, lower-unit damage or anything that changed during the trip.
- Note any starting, cooling, vibration, power or warning-system issues.

BATTERIES & ELECTRICAL

- Inspect battery area and connections.
- Recharge batteries according to battery/charger manufacturer instructions.
- Check trolling-motor plug and high-current connections for heat or discoloration.
- Note any electrical equipment that operated intermittently or abnormally.

TRAILER

- Inspect tires and wheels for visible damage.

- Check hubs for unusual heat or leakage after towing.
- Inspect bunks/supports and winch system.
- After saltwater use, rinse appropriate trailer components thoroughly with freshwater.
- Check lights, wiring, coupler and safety chains.

GEAR, CLEANING & STORAGE

- Remove trash, food, leftover bait and wet clothing.
- Drain and clean livewells/coolers as needed.
- Remove or dry wet life jackets, ropes and other gear.
- Secure rods, tackle and electronics.
- Store boat so water can drain.
- Ventilate wet compartments and support cover so water cannot pool.
- Write down problems that should be corrected before the next trip.

Post-trip care should reflect how and where the boat was used. Saltwater, impacts, heavy vegetation, mud and unusual operating conditions may require additional inspection or cleaning.