



Seasonal Aluminum Boat Maintenance Checklist

A more thorough inspection of the hull, transom, outboard, electrical system, fishing equipment, trailer, storage systems and safety gear.

TIN CAN BOAT WORKS | SMALL BOATS. SERIOUS FISHING.

HULL & TRANSOM

- Inspect hull sides, bottom, keel and chines.
- Inspect rivets, welds, seams and previous repairs.
- Look for cracks, dents, corrosion, pitting, coating damage or evidence of leaks.
- Inspect drain fittings and accessible interior hull areas.
- Check transom, braces, mounting points and outboard attachment for movement or deterioration.

OUTBOARD MOTOR

- Inspect mounting, steering, controls, trim/tilt, wiring and fuel system.
- Inspect propeller, prop shaft area, skeg and lower unit.
- Review manufacturer maintenance schedule.
- Determine whether engine oil/filter, gear lubricant, water pump/impeller, spark plugs, fuel filters or anodes are due for service.

BATTERIES & ELECTRICAL

- Inspect battery cases, restraints, terminals and cables.
- Check battery charge/condition and charger compatibility.
- Inspect wiring for chafing, loose support, corrosion or heat damage.
- Inspect fuses, breakers, battery switch and main circuit protection.
- Test navigation lights, bilge pump, livewell pump, horn and installed accessories.

TROLLING MOTOR & ELECTRONICS

- Inspect trolling motor mount, shaft, propeller, wiring, plug and breaker.
- Check deployment, stowing and steering operation.
- Inspect fish finder display, mount, power cable and connections.
- Inspect transducer, mounting and cable.
- Record model/serial information for installed equipment if not already documented.

BOAT TRAILER

- Check tire pressure, condition, tread, age and spare tire.
- Inspect lug nuts, wheels, hubs, bearings, seals and grease condition.
- Inspect axle, springs/torsion components, hangers, U-bolts and frame.
- Inspect bunks, brackets, hardware and hull support.

- Inspect winch, strap/cable, bow stop, coupler, safety chains, jack and tie-downs.
- Test all trailer lights and inspect wiring/connectors.

CLEANING, DRAINAGE & STORAGE

- Thoroughly clean hull, flooring, seats, livewell, compartments and bilge as needed.
- Remove dirt, fish residue, vegetation, salt and debris.
- Confirm hull, bilge and livewell drains are clear.
- Inspect cover, supports, ventilation and storage drainage.
- Look for standing water, mildew, trapped moisture, pests or weather damage.

SAFETY EQUIPMENT

- Inspect personal flotation devices and throwable flotation device as applicable.
- Check fire extinguisher and expiration/service status where applicable.
- Check sound-producing and emergency signaling equipment as applicable.
- Inspect first-aid kit, anchor, dock lines and other onboard safety gear.
- Confirm required equipment is present, accessible and serviceable.

MAINTENANCE RECORDS & FOLLOW-UP

- Record inspection date and engine hours where available.
- Record completed maintenance and replaced components.
- List anything that must be fixed before the next trip.
- List maintenance that should be scheduled.
- Photograph conditions that should be monitored over time.
- Finish with the regular Pre-Launch Checklist before returning the boat to service.

This checklist supplements - not replaces - manufacturer maintenance schedules, professional service when needed, and the regular Pre-Launch Checklist before each trip.