



Seasonal Pontoon Boat Maintenance Checklist

A whole-boat seasonal inspection for tubes, structure, outboard, electrical systems, trailer, interior and safety equipment.

TIN CAN BOAT WORKS | SMALL BOATS. SERIOUS FISHING.

PONTOON TUBES

- Clean tubes enough for inspection; check nose cones, dents, gouges and impact damage.
- Inspect visible welds, seams, brackets and attachment points.
- Look for corrosion, pitting, unusual staining and evidence of water intrusion.
- Inspect lifting strakes where equipped and review previous tube repairs.
- Document questionable areas with photographs for future comparison.

DECK & STRUCTURE

- Walk the entire deck; check for soft spots, unusual flexing and loose flooring.
- Inspect visible crossmembers, brackets, structural fasteners and underskinning where equipped.
- Check motor pod/transom structure and outboard mounting area.
- Inspect rails, gates, console mounting, furniture and pedestal-seat bases.
- Look underneath the deck for structural damage, loose components or previous modifications.

FURNITURE & FLOORING

- Inspect marine vinyl, seams, stitching, cushion undersides and seat bases.
- Look for mildew, trapped moisture or water inside storage compartments.
- Inspect carpet, woven vinyl, EVA or other flooring for lifting, wear or damage.
- Check areas around pedestal seats, consoles and deck penetrations.
- Investigate recurring moisture instead of treating it only as a cleaning problem.

OUTBOARD & FUEL

- Follow the manufacturer's maintenance schedule for the specific outboard.
- Inspect fuel tank, lines, fittings, filters and venting as applicable; investigate leaks or fuel odor.
- Check engine/gearcase fluids, cooling-system service and lubrication as required.
- Inspect propeller, remove fishing line and check steering, throttle and shift operation.
- Inspect engine mounting, corrosion protection/anodes and visible leaks.

BATTERIES & ELECTRICAL

- Inspect battery cases, hold-downs, terminals, cables and battery switches.
- Test onboard charger and inspect fuse/breaker panels.
- Check navigation lights, horn, gauges, pumps and accessory switches.
- Inspect visible and under-deck wiring for corrosion, chafing, heat damage or improvised repairs.
- Remove abandoned circuits and document the electrical system where practical.

TROLLING MOTOR & ELECTRONICS

- Inspect trolling-motor mount, shaft, propeller, plug, breaker and wiring.
- Check trolling-motor battery bank and charger.
- Inspect fish finders/GPS, mounts, transducers and wiring routes.
- Confirm multi-battery voltage/configuration remains correctly documented.
- Service equipment according to manufacturer recommendations.

TRAILER

- Inspect frame, welds, bunks, brackets and overall pontoon support.
- Check tires, age, pressure, wheels, lug nuts and spare tire.
- Inspect/service hubs and bearings as required; check suspension and brakes where equipped.
- Check coupler, safety chains, jack, winch, strap and bow stop.
- Test lights and inspect trailer wiring.

CLEANING, STORAGE & SAFETY

- Thoroughly clean boat; inspect cover, cover supports, ventilation and drainage.
- Address mildew, persistent moisture and blocked drains.
- Review required PFDs, fire extinguisher, sound device, lights and other safety equipment.
- Inspect anchor, dock lines, boarding equipment and required documentation.
- Review boat capacity and added weight from batteries, trolling motor, electronics, livewells and gear.

REVIEW REPAIRS & MODIFICATIONS

- Reinspect previous tube, structural and deck repairs.
- Check electrical additions, trolling-motor installation and electronics mounting.
- Inspect added furniture, livewell installations and trailer modifications.
- Look for movement, corrosion, loose hardware, cracking, failed sealants or wiring problems.
- Correct questionable work before covering it with new finishes or equipment.

MAINTENANCE RECORDS

- Record inspection date and engine hours where available.
- Record maintenance completed and parts replaced.
- Record battery information, trailer service and repairs.
- Photograph developing conditions for future comparison.
- Update the Tin Can Digital Owner's Manual/build record where applicable.

BEFORE THE FIRST TRIP

- Perform the normal Pontoon Pre-Launch Checklist even after seasonal maintenance.
- Test batteries, electronics, outboard and trailer lights before leaving home.
- Verify tires, hubs, tie-downs and safety equipment.
- Fix safety/reliability issues before the next trip; schedule other maintenance appropriately.
- Keep an eye on minor documented conditions for change.

Find it before the boat finds it for you. Driveway problems are usually easier than ramp problems.