Checklist: Winterize engine

The best checklist (until you find a better one) for preparing your diesel inboard engine for the winter

Before haul out: 1.5 hours			
	 Fuel stabilizer 	• Fuel	• Rags, clean
After haul out: 3 hours	Lighting	• Fuel filter, engine	• Fuel filter, tank
	• Air filter	• Hose	• Antifreeze
	 Coolant (fresh water only) 	• Bucket, clean	Running water
	Small container	 Zinc anodes & gaskets 	Baggies & cable ties
	• Tools	Assistant (optional)	
	See also: Checklist: Oil change for inboard engines		
Before haul out:			
1. FUEL TANK	Add fuel stabilizer		
2. FUEL TANK	Fill		
3. ENGINE OIL	See Checklist: Oil change for inboard engines		
After haul out:			
1. ENGINE ROOM	Prepare your workspace		
2. FUEL FILTER, ENGINE	Replace		
3. FUEL FILTER, TANK	Replace		
4. FUEL SYSTEM	Bleed air		
5. AIR FILTER	Inspect and replace if needed		
6. RAW WATER COOLING	Disconnect raw water intake hose from seacock, divert to bucket		
7. RAW WATER COOLING	Connect hose to running water, start running water to keep bucket filled		
8. ENGINE	Start engine, run for 10 minutes to warm it up		
9. ENGINE	Stop engine		
10. RAW WATER COOLING	Stop running water, disconnect hose		
11. RAW WATER COOLING	Fill bucket with antifreeze		
12. ENGINE	Start engine, run until exhaust shows antifreeze		
13. ENGINE	Stop engine		
14. RAW WATER COOLING	Reconnect raw water intake to seacock		
15. RAW WATER INTAKE	Open seacock		
16. ENGINE, RAW WATER DRAIN	Place small container under the engine, open drain		
17. ENGINE	Open decompression levers		
18. ENGINE	Hand-turn the engine 2-3 time	es to drain remaining raw w	ater from the water pump
	Important! Turn the engine in the correct direction. See the engine manual.		
19. ENGINE	Close decompression levers		
20. ENGINE, RAW WATER DRAIN	When raw water drain stops dripping, close drain		
21. FRESH WATER COOLING	Inspect coolant and replace if needed		
22. ZINCS	Inspect and replace if needed		
23. ALTERNATOR BELT	Loosen tension		
24. WATER PUMP BELT	Loosen tension		
25. BATTERY	Disconnect engine cables		
26. ENGINE AIR INTAKE	Cover with baggie and cable tie		
27. FUEL TANK	Close fuel valve		
28. ENGINE TANK VENT	Cover with baggie and cable tie		
29. EXHAUST	Cover with baggie and cable tie		
30. ENGINE ROOM	Tidy up, close panels, turn off lighting		
31. MAINTENANCE LOG	Update		

Tips

Read your engine's manual

Just read it. Please. It lists the volume, grade, brands, and all that, for your engine's filters and cooling system.

Preparing your workspace

Remove engine room panels, turn on the lighting. Spread out a clean rags next to the engine room to organize the materials.

Coolant

This is in the engine's internal freshwater cooling. Typically this is ethylene glycol with anti-corrosion additives. Do not use this as antifreeze for the raw water cooling system.

Air filter

Some air filters can be reused by washing them in mild soap and water then drying them. Check the manufacturer's instructions.

Notes

Read your engine's manual again

This time compare the storage and winterizing steps with this checklist. The manual wins.

Baggies & cable ties

Alternatively, you can also use plastic sheeting and masking tape, although masking tape doesn't resist rain and snow as well as a cable tie.

Antifreeze

This protects the raw water cooling system during the cold. Use propylene glycol that's safe for engines. Do not use this as coolant for freshwater cooling. For future reference, make a note of how much you use.

Engine direction

When turning the engine by hand, make sure you turn in the correct direction. The engine manual will specify either clockwise or anti-clockwise.