

Checklist: Oil change for inboard engines

The best checklist for changing your diesel inboard's oil (until you find a better one)

Time

Total: 60 mins

Engine running: 20 mins

Oil & filter: 40

What you need

- Clothing, ugly
- Disposable gloves
- Rags, clean
- Lighting
- Oil pump
- Container for used oil
- Oil filter wrench
- Funnel, clean
- Oil, new
- Oil filter, new
- Assistant (optional)

How to do it

1. CLOTHING	Get dressed.
2. GLOVES	Put them on.
3. ENGINE	Start, run until almost operating temperature, stop.
4. ENGINE	Wait 5 minutes for the oil to settle down to the oil pan.
5. ENGINE ROOM	While you wait, prepare your workspace.
6. FILLER CAP	Remove.
7. DIPSTICK	Check the oil level and make a note of it.
8. DIPSTICK HOLE	Insert oil pump hose.
9. OIL PUMP	Pump used oil then remove.
10. DIPSTICK	Re-insert.
11. USED FILTER	While a rag underneath, remove with the filter wrench.
12. NEW FILTER	Coat the gasket with a fingertip dipped in new oil.
13. NEW FILTER	Attach to the engine.
	Important! Attach the filter by hand. Do not use the oil filter wrench to install a filter.
14. NEW OIL	With the funnel, pour the same volume that you pumped out or the amount specified in the manual, whichever is less.
15. ENGINE	Wait 5 minutes for the new oil to settle.
16. DIPSTICK	Check the oil level. If low, add oil.
17. FILLER CAP	Re-attach.
18. ENGINE	With a rag, wipe around the oil filter, the oil dipstick hole, and the oil filler cap.
19. ENGINE	Start, idle for 1 minute, stop.
20. ENGINE	Wait 5 minutes for the new oil to settle.
21. ENGINE	With a clean rag, check for leaks by wiping around the oil filter, the oil dipstick hole, and the oil filler cap. Inspect the rag for oil stains.
22. DIPSTICK	Check the oil level. If low, add oil.
23. ENGINE ROOM	Tidy up.
	Gather rags, lighting, tools, and materials. Re-attach panels.
24. USED OIL, FILTER, GLOVES	Dispose.
25. MAINTENANCE LOG	Update.

Tips

Preparing your workspace

While waiting for the oil to settle, remove panels, turn on the lighting. Spread out a clean rag to organize the oil pump, container, new oil, new filter, and wrench.

Inserting the oil pump hose

Push it in to the same depth as the dipstick. The ideal position is the lowest part of the oil pan. Avoid inserting the hose too far because it'll either curve up or get stuck.

Pumping oil out

Confirm that you've pumped all the oil by comparing the manual's specifications, the oil level before pumping, and the markings on your container.

Notes

Dotted lines for notes

