Checklist: Oil change for inboard engines

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

Time	Wh	at you need	
Total: 60 mins	• Clo	thing, ugly	 Oil filter wrench
Engine running: 20 mins	• Dis	posable gloves	• Funnel, clean
Oil & filter: 40 mins	• Rag	js, clean	• Oil, new
	• Ligl	hting	 Oil filter, new
	• Oil	pump	 Assistant (optional)
	• Cor	ntainer for used oil	
How to do it			
1. CLOTHING	Get dressed		
2. GLOVES	Put them on		
3. INSTRUMENT PANEL	Start engine, run for 1-2 minutes		
4. INSTRUMENT PANEL	Stop engine		
5. ENGINE	Wait 5 minutes for the oil to settle down to the oil pan		
6. ENGINE ROOM	While you wait, prepare your workspace		
7. FILLER CAP	Remove		
8. DIPSTICK	Check the oil level and make a note of it		
9. DIPSTICK HOLE	Insert oil pump hose		
10. OIL PUMP	Pump used oil then remove		
11. DIPSTICK	Re-insert		
12. USED FILTER	While a rag underneath, remove with the filter wrench		
13. NEW FILTER	Coat the gasket with a fingertip dipped in new oil		
14. NEW FILTER	Attach to the engine		
	Important! Attach the filter b	by hand. Do not use t	he oil filter wrench to install a filter
15. NEW OIL	With the funnel, pour the same volume that you pumped out or the amount specified in the manual, whichever is less		
16. ENGINE	Wait 5 minutes for the new oil to settle		
17. DIPSTICK	Check the oil level, add oil if needed		
18. FILLER CAP	Re-attach		
19. ENGINE	With a rag, wipe around the oil filter, the oil dipstick hole, and the oil filler cap		
20. INSTRUMENT PANEL	Start, idle for 1 minute, stop		
21. ENGINE	Wait 5 minutes for the new oil to settle		
22. ENGINE	With a clean rag, check for leaks by wiping around the oil filter, the oil dipstick hole, and the oil filler cap		
23. DIPSTICK	Check the oil level, add oil if needed		
24. ENGINE ROOM	Tidy up rags, lighting, tools, materials, and re-attach panels.		
25. USED OIL, FILTER, GLOVES	Dispose		
26. 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 oil and oil filter.

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.

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

Read your engine's manual again

This time compare the manual's oil changing steps with this checklist. The manual wins.

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.