

# Boat Decommissioning and Winterization Checklist

*To be completed in order*

## Phase 1 – Near the end of the boating season:

- Step 1: Varnish.
- Step 2: Remove the canvas and send out for washing, minor repairs, and storage.
- Step 3: Clean, compound as needed, and wax from the rail up, including stainless.
- Step 4: Remove the sails and send out for washing, minor repairs, and storage.
- Step 5: Rig the winter running rigging. Wash, soften, dry, and stow summer lines.
- Step 6: Clean the bilge, engine space, cockpit lockers, and anchor chain locker.
- Step 7: Clean the cabin interior, including storage lockers and contents thereof.
- Step 8: Remove all food from the boat.
- Step 9: Add fuel stabilizer to the fuel tank(s), then fill those tank(s) with fuel.

## Phase 2 – Just prior to haul-out:

- Step 10: Winterize the freshwater system and the watermaker.
- Step 11: Winterize the sanitation system: toilet, macerator pump, and holding tank.
- Step 12: Winterize the bilge & bilge pumps.
- Step 13: Winterize the bait well pump and fish box pump.
- Step 14: Winterize the air conditioning / heating system.
- Step 15: Winterize the refrigeration system.
- Step 16: Winterize the saltwater wash-down pump.
- Step 17: Service the engine(s): Recommended season-end fluid and filter changes.
- Step 18: Service the generator: Recommended season-end fluid and filter changes.
- Step 19: Service the batteries.
- Step 20: Service and winterize the tender's outboard engine.
- Step 21: Clean and stow the tender.
- Step 22: Perform a full systems check.

## Phase 3 – After haul-out or final move to winter storage slip:

- Step 23: Clean the waterline.
- Step 24: Clean and wax the topsides from the waterline to the rail.
- Step 25: Winterize the engine(s): Flush, fog, and seal.
- Step 26: Winterize the generator: Flush, fog, and seal.
- Step 27: Open all seacocks to drain if boat is wintering out of the water on the hard.
- Step 28: Shrinkwrap the boat.
- Step 29: Set out dehumidifier hangers.
- Step 30: Send the prop(s) out for tuning and service.
- Step 31: Diver to change the zincs if boat overwinters in the water.

*A blank PDF of The Fall Decommissioning Checklist and all other checklists in this book can be found at [BirchMarine.com](http://BirchMarine.com) under the "Checklists" tab, where it can be downloaded for free.*