Boat Maintenance Checklist

Routine boat upkeep covering the engine, hull, bilge, electrical and fuel systems, plus seasonal winterizing tasks.

Before Each Outing

- [ ] Check engine oil and coolant levels
- [ ] Confirm the bilge pump and float switch work
- [ ] Inspect the propeller for dings or fishing line
- [ ] Check fuel level and look for leaks or fumes
- [ ] Test navigation lights and electronics

Engine & Drive

- [ ] Change engine oil and filter per the service schedule
- [ ] Replace the water pump impeller at the recommended interval
- [ ] Change lower-unit gear oil and check for water intrusion
- [ ] Inspect belts, hoses and clamps for wear
- [ ] Service spark plugs and check the cooling system flow
- [ ] Flush the engine with fresh water after saltwater use

Hull & Exterior

- [ ] Inspect the hull for cracks, blisters or damage
- [ ] Clean the hull and check antifouling paint condition
- [ ] Check sacrificial anodes and replace worn ones
  Anodes protect metal parts from galvanic corrosion
- [ ] Inspect through-hull fittings and seacocks
- [ ] Check cleats, rails and deck hardware are secure
- [ ] Wax gelcoat and protect fittings from corrosion

Bilge & Plumbing

- [ ] Clean the bilge and remove oily residue
- [ ] Test the bilge pump and clear the strainer
- [ ] Check for any unexplained water entering the boat
- [ ] Inspect freshwater and waste system hoses
- [ ] Confirm the drain plug seals correctly

Electrical & Fuel

- [ ] Check battery charge and clean the terminals
- [ ] Inspect wiring for chafing, corrosion or loose connections
- [ ] Test all lights, gauges and electronics
- [ ] Inspect the fuel system for leaks and replace the filter
- [ ] Check fuel hoses, fittings and the tank vent

Seasonal & Winterizing

- [ ] Add fuel stabilizer or manage fuel per the manual
- [ ] Fog the engine to protect internal parts
- [ ] Drain cooling and water systems to prevent freezing
- [ ] Charge or remove the battery for storage
- [ ] Clean, dry and cover the boat for the off-season
- [ ] Inspect the trailer tires, bearings and lights if applicable