

Helpful Tips: Winterizing Info for New Owners

So, you bought a new Beneteau this year and are starting to think about the end of the sailing season and winterizing? This list will help you get through some of the initial questions you may have.

SAILS

1. Remove your sails from the boat.

Furling Mainsails:

If your boat is larger than 37 feet: you have to remove the four inspection plates (two on each side of the mast) that are just above the boom.

- Un-furl the mainsail, and release the halyard while a second person is pulling down on the luff (front end) and pulling the sail out of the mast.
- Once you have removed most of the sail from the mast, release the head fitting on the sail from the upper swivel and re-install the Allen head pin. Remove the tack fitting and re-install the allen pin.
- Remove the outhaul line from the clew block (back end) in the sail,
- Fold the sail and place into the sailbag for storage.

Furling Headsails:

- Un-furl the sail
- Release the genoa halyard, and pull the sail down to the deck.
- Un-tie the sheet lines, fold the sail, and place into the sailbag. Remove from the boat for storage.

Drop off your sails at your local sailmaker for an end of season check and repair.

It is advised that your sails be clean and dry when stored to prevent growth of mildew. They should also be stored in a dry area for the winter. Repairing any damage incurred during the season is great way to make sure they are ready to go for next year. Many sail makers offer this service.

Nothing increases the life of your sails like an annual inspection by a sailmaker. If you don't know a sailmaker, call us and we can put you in touch with one.

WINTERIZING THE FRESH WATER SYSTEM

1. Drain your water system/winterize fresh water tanks.
 - Turn on the fresh water pump, open the faucet in the galley, and let the water run dry (until all fresh water tanks are empty). *Note: If you have more than one water tank, close the empty tank, open the other, and let it run dry too.*
 - Once the tanks are dry, place approximately 10 gallons of -10°F of boat/RV antifreeze in each water tank from the deck fill.
 - Recharge the water system with this antifreeze. One tank at a time, run the antifreeze through each faucet at each sink. *Note: If your boat has a swim platform shower, you must repeat this procedure for that showerhead as well.* Run the water, both hot and cold, until you get only antifreeze draining out into the sinks.
 - Once you have covered the entire water system, turn off the fresh water pump; open all faucets to relieve the pressure. Leave the faucets and all the thru-hulls open for the entire winter. This will keep any residual water that is left in the system a place to expand when it freezes.
 - Drain Hot water tank through drain cock until antifreeze flows. Depressurize the hot water heater by leaving the drain cock in the “open position” for the winter. *Note: Remember to close this drain cock in the spring when you flush your antifreeze from the system.*

2. Winterizing the accessory pumps, refrigerator drains and bilge pumps.
 - Shower drains: Engage the pump, pour the antifreeze directly into the drain hole, and run the pump until you have only antifreeze exiting the boat through the drain fitting.
 - Refrigerator drain: repeat the above process.
 - Bilge pumps (manual and electric): Engage the pumps. Suction antifreeze into the bilge pump until antifreeze is exiting the boat through the drain fitting.

WINTERIZING THE AIR CONDITIONING/HEATING SYSTEM

- Remove the hose from the intake through hull in the bilge of the boat.
- Turn on the A/C system, and pour antifreeze into the upturned intake hose so the pump can pump the antifreeze through the system.
Note: You will need to have someone outside the boat to make sure that antifreeze is exiting the boat (collect into an empty bucket).
- Once this has been accomplished, turn off the AC system, reinstall the pick-up hose, and leave the through hull sea cock open.

WINTERIZING THE HEADS

NOTE: Before winterizing the head(s) make sure you have pumped out and rinsed out the holding tanks.

- Disconnect the intake hose for the head under the head sink.
- Put antifreeze in the hose via a funnel, and pump the head pump until the antifreeze replaces any water in the toilet.

12 VOLT SYSTEM

- You can either remove the batteries from the boat for the winter, or most people will leave them installed, however disconnected with a full charge.
- Before the final charge, inspect the fluid level in each cell of each battery. Fill with distilled water if low and then fully charge them.

DIESEL ENGINE & GAS TANKS

- The final step is to properly winterize the engine. With the boat out of the water, close the through hull intake, remove the large screw-off cap from your water strainer, start the engine, and slowly pour two (2) gallons of -100 degree antifreeze into the cup and let it pump through the engine until you see the antifreeze exiting the exhaust pipe. Shut off the engine at this point, and re-install the screw-cap, and open the through hull valve.

HALYARDS & RUNNING RIGGING

1. It is a good practice to remove your halyards and running rigging from the boat to prolong the life of your lines.
 - Using messenger lines for each halyard- attach the messenger line to the halyard and replace the halyard with the messenger line. Store your halyards and running rigging in a dry place for the winter.

CUSHIONS & MATTRESSES

- Cushions should be removed from the boat and stored in a clean, dry location.
- If you don't have space to store the cushions flip the cushions on their sides in the berths to allow air to circulate.

REFRIGERATOR & DRY STORAGE

- It is important to remove all beverages and liquid items from the refrigerators in your boat.
- Also remove any perishable food items from the dry storage areas (cupboards) of your boat.

If you are doubtful about being able to do any of these steps, do have your boat yard personnel do the winterizing. This is money well spent if you are unsure of the proper procedures.