

Care and Launch Prep Check List:

Clean and check the Hull:

Osmosis - any moisture caught in the gelcoat - good time to deal with it.

Water bubbles on the Hull - break them and let them dry before sealing them again, this is usually a result of a layer of interprotect that does not last forever.

Keel joint: very common in C&C, there is a small gap in the keel joint that should be sealed before launch

Rudder:

Many rudders fill with water over the season, it's a good time to drill drain holes and let them drain before you reseal them and apply antifouling paint.

Check the rudder post for any cracks or damage,

Antifouling prep:

Wash down the hull - it takes a lot of acetone to wash down the hull - here's a money saving hint - use white vinegar, it does the same thing without the toxic smell. That will degrease the hull and prep the hull for antifouling paint. The 'hull' temp should be 10C for the paint to adhere and set.

For inboard engines;

Check the anode on your propeller shaft for pitting, if it's badly pitted, replace it.

Stuffing box - if it leaks now is the time to repack it. You can fix it in the water, but it's nerve racking as water is pouring into the boat.

Cutlass bearing - this should be a very tight fit, changing them out is no easy task.

Thru hulls, good time to make sure that they are secure and water tight, a good time to lubricate the gate or ball valves.

Check water intake impellers for cracks or damaged fins.

Mast:

As most masts are down, it's a good opportunity to check the masthead.

Check and Lubricate the sheaves at the top of the mast - check them for wearing especially if you have wire to rope halyards. If they need to be replaced, this is a good time - it's not an easy job, but worth the peace-of-mind.

Check the spreader boots: good time to remove them check them or replace them.

Check the shrouds for any 'fish hooks' or barbs that may have formed, the off season is the time to replace them.

Check any electrical connections that may be at the masthead and the spreaders - check for cracks - VHF Coaxial connectors.

Turnbuckles - make sure that they are not bent and a good time to spray them down with lubricant.

Halyards - you can soak them in soap and water to help clean them - if you are going to change them - tip sew them together with dental floss - not expensive whipping line.

Pre Launch:

Mark strap placement on the toe rail for launch and haul out and note the boats position in the cradle - take a picture of the boat in the cradle as a reminder

Check all safety equipment:

PFD's

Flares - 4 year expiration date

VHF radio

Fire extinguishers should be rechecked and certified.

Check your mooring lines and replace them if they are worn.

Shackle and mouse your mooring lines on to your mooring ball prior to launch in the event of bad weather.