



Yacht Club de Pointe-Claire

Pointe-Claire Yacht Club

1 AVENUE CARTIER, POINTE-CLAIRE, QUEBEC H9S 4R3 • 514-695-2441 • FAX: 514-695-2341
E-mail: pcycoffice@pcyc.qc.ca

Winterizing Your Boat

Properly winterizing and storing your boat will help prevent damage and make sure you are ready for on-the water fun in the spring. Consult your manufacturers' manuals and service guides for specific winterizing, flushing and maintenance instructions before you begin. Plan ahead, create a checklist (see below) and gather all the items you will need to winterize and store your boat.

Inboard Engines

- Fill fuel tanks, add stabilizer, and change fuel filters and separators.
- Change oil and filter.
- Check coolant level in freshwater-cooling system and add coolant as necessary.
- Run antifreeze through raw-water-cooling system. Use propylene glycol antifreeze (orange-pink color) as it is non-toxic.
- Boat owners are responsible to dispose of and/or recycle waste oils, engine coolants and hazardous materials in an environmentally responsible manner. It is against the law to put anything into the lake. Care must be taken to not spill antifreeze, oil, or other fluids onto the ground.

Outboards

- Empty fuel tanks for alternative use of fuel, or, fill fuel tanks and add stabilizer.
- Drain and replace the crankcase oil and the gear case oil and safely dispose of the old oil. (CTC or other supplier)

Batteries

- If you take your batteries home, store them in a cool, dry place such as your basement and put them on a trickle marine charger or top up the charge once a month.
- If you leave your batteries aboard, make sure battery cable connections are tight and free of corrosion and hook batteries up to a marine charger to maintain full charge; otherwise batteries should be charged once per month. Discharged batteries may freeze and crack.

Below Deck

- Clean and dry bilges and verify bilge pump operates properly.
- Pump out holding tank and add propylene glycol antifreeze to the head.
- Drain all systems that use water (water heater, freshwater system, shower sump, etc.) and replace with propylene glycol antifreeze as appropriate.
- Remove all food and beverages, and clean food particles that may tempt winter critters.
- Secure all ports and hatches.

Covering

- Custom-made canvas or synthetic covers are the best at protecting your boat from the elements, are reusable, and allow for air circulation (prevents mildew buildup.)
- The use of shrinkwrap is strongly discouraged for environmental reasons. It is single-use plastic and is generally not recyclable. If used, it should be applied by a professional for fire-safety reasons. Pre-launch disposal is the responsibility of the boat owner. And, if possible, it should be recycled.
- If you use a different type of covering, make sure that it is water/snow proof, and that there is adequate air circulation.

Waste Disposal

Ensure any waste is properly disposed of. Any surplus fuels or used oil and fluids must be personally disposed of by boat owners. Other waste items must be placed in the environmentally appropriate bins provided.

Did you know?

Analyzing over ten years of freeze claims, Boat U.S. Marine Insurance found that more than 3/4 of the claims involved cracks in the engine block or the exhaust manifolds that occurred because water remained in the engine or cooling system during a hard freeze.

Prepared with thanks to sailorsforthesea.org for most content, with local modifications by PCYC.

The Harbour Master, September 2020