

Maintenance Tip Sheet

Oil Changes:

Changing engine oil, checking fluid levels and getting routine inspections are the best ways to keep your boat running smoothly. Refer to the owner's manual for the recommended intervals to change the fluids that keep the boat running in tip top condition.

"Clean" Tips for Changing Oil:

- Let machinery components and fluids cool before doing any work to ensure pressure is relieved from the closed fluid systems.
- Use a self-contained spill-proof oil extractor to remove fluids.
- Temporarily disable the bilge pump so that it doesn't cycle on in the case of a spill.
- Use an oil-only absorbent pad under the engine and in the bilge to absorb spills.
- Place a plastic bag around the filter before removing to catch drips.
- Top off fluids, wipe up any spills, and reconnect the bilge pump.
- Recycle the filter and used oil at a recycling location and dispose of used absorbent pads and rags properly.

Changing Fuel Filters:

Inspecting and changing fuel filters should be part of any routine maintenance plan. Changing the fuel filter is especially important if you boat in an area that has recently switched to ethanol formulated gasoline. Refer to the engine owner's manual. Proper fuel flow and filtration is essential to smooth operation.

"Clean" Tips for Changing Fuel Filters:

- Clean off any dirt from around the old filter and filter housing.
- Temporarily disable the bilge pump so that it doesn't cycle in the case of a spill.
- Use an oil-only absorbent pad under the engine and in the bilge to absorb spills.
- Use a bucket or cut the top off of a plastic soda bottle to catch fuel overflow.
- Empty the bowl into the bucket and dispose of in a used fuel bin at your marina.
- Clean the bowl or housing with an oil-only absorbent rag before replacing element.
- Lubricate "O" rings and prime the filter and fuel line as necessary.

Bilge Maintenance:

Engine lubricants are meant to coat engine parts – not the inside of the bilge. But invariably, even the most careful person can experience drips from an oil change or leaks from a fitting, which could become major problems for the boater, the marina and the environment. Any time you are working on a boat be sure to use caution to prevent contaminants from entering the bilge.

- Keep the engine tuned to minimize oil leaks.
- Check that clamps and filters are sealed properly.
- Inspect hoses and belts for peeling or cracking.
- Place an oil-absorbent pad under your engine.
- Use an oil-absorbent bilge sock near your pump.
- Wipe up spills, drips and splatters immediately.