



REGISTERED TRADEMARK
ESTABLISHED 1985

Falcon Inflatables (Pty) Ltd
Swellendam, Western Cape, South Africa
Tel 028 514 2010 / +27 28 514 2010
Email info@falconinflatables.com

PRE-SUMMER CHECKLIST

Boating is intended to be a fun and enjoyable experience. The last thing you want, is being on holiday and having to experience hassle of any kind. Unfortunately during long storage periods, certain aspects deteriorate and without prior checking can result in costly repairs, getting stuck next to the road, or even stuck out on the water. We've put together a simple pre-summer checklist below:

Battery

A battery loses charge when not in use. In addition thereto, electrolysis or connected circuits could also have drained it over time, and a battery left flat for too long will require replacement. Charging your battery periodically and checking fluid levels (in the case of non marine batteries) could easily double its useable lifespan.

Fuel system

Fuel deteriorates over time - generally speaking fuel older than 3-4 months should be discarded or at least mixed with fresh fuel to avoid engine blockage or reliability issues. Check fuel lines for signs of perishing rubber and especially the fuel primer bulb - if it has gone hard it is time to get it replaced. Perished lines can lead to air being sucked in and consequential engine unreliability. Check and clear out fuel filters - old fuel can lead to crystallization and blockage.

Start your engine

This is the best preventative maintenance available for any outboard engine. Check oil level (applies to 4-stroke only), add a water supply and make sure it runs for at least 2-3 minutes every month or two at most - this loosens and lubricates all moving parts and importantly it flushes aged fuel out of the system. Trim it up and down. Check for excessive play on engine mountings. Check propeller for damage and lastly check gearbox for evidence of oil leakage.

Steering

Particularly cable steering systems can become stuck through long periods on non-use. Turn steering lock to lock a few times and lubricate the steering shaft if necessary.



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Service fire extinguisher

When the time comes to renew your boat's certificate of fitness, the safety officer will require to see serviced fire extinguishers; something which is often overlooked and can lead to inconvenience or having to purchase a new one to pass the safety survey.

Trailer wheel bearings

The mileage your trailer does has no relevance to the longevity of wheel bearings. In fact, the less mileage you do, the more likely it becomes to be a victim of bearing failure on a longer distance trip; short distances do not generate sufficient heat to dissipate moisture. Put a jack under the axle and spin each wheel - you'll hear a grinding or crunching sound if there is a problem. If you're the DIY type, adding some grease and adjusting free-play will do no harm.

General

Have a good look at your hull & deck for signs of mildew, rot, osmosis, water ingress or damage. If repairs are required it is far better (and less costly) to get this done before summer is here - by then all boating and repair shops are fully booked up. Right now you may even be offered a reduced rate.

COMPILED BY
Pieter Heyneman
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