



Take the Time to Winterize

Dave Trostle & the Sterling Acceptance Team

When the smell of pumpkin spice lattes leave the air, it's a good time to start thinking about boat winterizing your vessel. For those of us not lucky enough to have year round boating seasons, yes the Northeast envy's you, it is extremely important to take the time and prep your boat for the winter months.

An all too common, "why put time and money into a boat that you're not going to use for months", mind set may be a big mistake. You may find that waiting too long to do so can be extremely costly. Winter can be tough on your boat and some of the damages can include cracked engine blocks, damaged fiberglass, split hoses and sink-age after the first thaw.

Dave Trostle, owner and Vice President of Sterling Acceptance Corporation, offers a few useful tips on boat winterization:

- *Check on your boat frequently, this will deter possible damages and theft of equipment.*
- *Use covers only if secure- as unsecure covers can cause significant damage to fiberglass or gel coat. I recommend covering the cockpit to prevent snow and ice fall.*
- *Pump bilge dry*
- *Check thru hulls, as the hoses can freeze*
- *Check lines and adjust when needed*
- *If your boat is on land, make sure jack stands and tie downs are secure*

Engine Check list:

- *Add fuel stabilizer*
- *Check plugs, wires, belts and adjust accordingly*
- *Clean fuel screens and replace fuel filter*
- *Flush cooling system*
- *Grease U-joints and gimbals*
- *Check steering and power trim fluids*

Additionally:

- Check your insurance policy and/or speak with your agent about your specific coverage for damages.
- Shop around for prices if that is a concern for you, as not winterizing your vessel can cost you much more in the long run.
- Some dealers that have service centers also offer discounted yard fee's and winterization upon purchase, so be sure to ask!

Contact Dave Trostle TODAY!

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