

GUIDE: SAILBOAT MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

Owning a sailboat is about freedom and adventure and a little regular care goes a long way to keeping you safe, confident, and ready to sail at a moment's notice. Use this guide as a simple reference for what to check and when.

✓ EVERY TRIP

- Engine: Check oil and coolant levels, belts, fuel filters, and look for leaks.
- Fuel & Bilge: Inspect fuel filters, ensure bilge is dry, pumps and float switches work.
- Batteries: Verify charge levels.
- Safety Gear: Confirm you have at least 1 Coast Guard Approved Life Jacket per person onboard, flares, the required fire extinguishers, horn, and type IV throwable.
- Rigging & Sails: Quick visual inspection of standing and running rigging for chafe, frayed halyards, or loose shackles.
- Lights & Electronics: Confirm nav lights work, VHF radio transmits and receives, and the GPS / chart-plotter power up.

✓ MONTHLY

- Battery Maintenance: Check water levels, clean terminals, tighten securing straps.
- Seacocks & Hoses: Exercise valves, check for corrosion, ensure all double-clipped.
- Winches: Inspect for smooth operations and service as needed.
- Deck Hardware: Inspect gooseneck, spreaders, kicker, topping lift, mast heel, and mainsheet connections for corrosion or wear.
- Strainers: Check and clean raw water strainers.
- Bilge: Inspect pumps and float switches; grease impellers with water pump grease only.
- Interior: Air out cabins, wipe surfaces, reduce mildew buildup.

✓ QUARTERLY (OR EVERY 100 HOURS)

- Engine: Change oil, filters; check belts and impellers.
- Transmission/Fluids: Inspect and top off.
- Zincs: Inspect shaft and sail-drive anodes, replace if worn.
- Steering: Inspect cables, hydraulics, rudder stock for play.
- Sails: Wash in fresh water to remove salt; inspect stitching and sacrificial strips.
- Rigging: Lubricate mast and boom sheaves with silicone; check halyard sheaves for wear.
- Running Rigging: Wash halyards, sheets, warps; check shackles for seizure.



ALL POINTS

Yacht Sales

✓ ANNUALLY

- Haul-out & Hull: Pressure wash, inspect for blistering or cracks, repaint bottom, check keel root and fastenings for stress cracks.
- Prop & Shaft: Check prop bracket for misalignment, inspect stern gland/stuffing box, grease or repack as needed.
- Saildrive: Replace seals and service every time you haul-out, change internal engine anode, check engine mount is secure, check diesel tank for water from condensation and drain off or replace fuel if needed, add an appropriate biocide to help kill off diesel bug, check inaccessible wiring, such as bonding wires from the anode and earthing wires from the starter motor. Clean the terminals and smear them with silicone gel.
- Standing Rigging: Inspect for corrosion, stranding, mast tangs, T-ball joints, rigging screws.
- Mast & Spars: Inspect mast cap (backstay, forestay, antenna, lights, halyard sheaves). Wax mast tracks and luff grooves with candle wax or Teflon spray.
- Furling Gear: Wash drum and swivel, confirm free movement (stiff swivels compromise forestays).
- Winches: Strip, wash in paraffin, regrease.
- Windlass: Clean and grease foot switches/connections; test manual or powered systems.
- Anchor & Chain: Inspect for wear, clean, re-mark chain lengths.
- Gas System: Inspect hoses (<5 years old), tighten clips, test sensors.
- Heads & Plumbing: Service stiff pumps with silicone grease, flush tanks with puriclean.
- Safety Gear: Renew flares, service life raft & EPIRB, test MOB lights, check life jackets (inflate overnight, check cylinders).
- Lifelines & Stanchions: check stanchions and make sure lifelines are still suitably secured at each end and cords and pins are in good order. Watch out for wire failure if you have plastic sheathing.
- Charts & Electronics: Update digital and paper charts, download plotter software updates.

✓ EVERY 2 – 5 YEARS

- Standing Rigging: Inspect at 5 and repair or replace as needed. (replace at 10 years)
- Sails: Inspect and replace depending on wear as needed (be prepared to replace at 5 years)
- Saildrive & Stern Glands: Replace seals per manufacturer schedule (generally around the 5-year mark)
- Seacocks & Through-Hulls: Replace fitting and double-clamps hoses every 5 years.
- Life-raft: Service or replacement per manufacturer schedule (generally 3-5 years)
- Electronics: Review upgrades as tech advances.



Think of maintenance as part of your sailing adventure, every inspection gives you confidence and peace of mind. Keep a logbook of all service, upgrades, and parts replaced; it adds value when selling and helps keep you on track for safe, reliable sailing.