

CHECKLIST – YACHT PREPARATION BEFORE THE SEASON ON THE HARD AND POST-LAUNCH

Make sure to go through with all the standard preparation and check before you start sailing to the yard for lifting

Description	Yes	No	Remarks
Pre-departure to the boat yard			
1. Safety equipment			
2. The weather forecast			
3. Set up a functional VHF system			
4. Navigational equipment			
5. Make sure all necessary boat documentation is onboard			
6. Equipment and spare parts: be prepared for scheduled maintenance			
7. Create a service plan with indicated maintenance tasks			
8. Ensure adequate fuel levels			
9. Engine and coolants			
10. Bilges			
11. Prepare the anchor and chain for use			
12. Conduct a visual inspection of the boat and equipment			
13. Prepare protective coverings for the deck (cockpit, saloon)			
14. Remove all perishable food items			

15. Close and tighten all hatches and portlights			
16. Lifting plan. Identify or create a diagram indicating the locations on the hull for lifting slings			
17. Review instructions from antifouling paint manufacturers, engine and bow thruster manufacturers and all equipment planned for service			
18. Be prepared to document the service process through photos and videos			
After arriving at the boat yard – dock and getting ready to lift			
1. Upon arrival at the dock, switch off your engine and turn your battery switch to the “Off” position. Additionally, shut down your AC and DC power			
2. Capture detailed photos of all critical components, connectors, and placement			
3. Label all rigging with their respective type and location to ensure easy identification. Remember, human memory is limited			
4. If your boat stays for an extended period, remove all sails from the mast, including headsails on furlers			
5. Disconnect the topping lift, boom vang, backstay, and anything that connects the boom to the mast if necessary for lifting			
6. Secure and coil any lines in or on the mast and keep them on the mast			
7. Cover teak and other surfaces while on the dry dock to prevent dirt and dust from shoes and other boats			
On the hard – after lifting			
1. Immediately after lifting perform pressure washing			
2. Inspect the shiny, wet surface to inspect for blisters before the bottom dries. Examine the hull from the side to reveal any developing blisters more readily. If blisters are present, request the yard to check the bottom with a moisture meter once it dries			
3. Inspect areas that remain wet after the surrounding zones have dried, as this could indicate a problem in the laminate			
4. Check the hull for any cracks, delamination, corrosion (if metal) and impact damage. Repair any issues found			

5. Perform a scrape test on all-through hull fittings to expose any corrosion. Grease and exercise the valves			
6. Make sure the propeller is tight, and blade bearings rotate smoothly			
7. Ensure the P-bracket (if present) is secure and there is no play in the bearings present here or in the stern tube. If a sail drive is present, inspect the diaphragm and gaiter			
8. Inspect the rudder bearings to ensure they are in good condition			
9. Replace all anodes (do not mix types on one boat)			
10. Clean any hull and keel coolers			
11. Make sure the log is clean and rotates freely			
12. If a bow thruster is present, ensure it is operational and has been serviced			
13. Check all through-hull fittings			
14. While on land, open and close each seacock and service any frozen ones			
15. Ensure there is no more than one diameter distance between the forward end of the propeller hub and the aft end of the closest bearing (in the case of the shaft)			
16. Ensure there is no side-to-side movement of the shaft			
17. Check for dried or cracked rubbers and inspect the shaft (sail drive) seals			
18. Replace seals on the sail drive			
19. Clean and mark the chain			

20. If there is a yellow blemish on the white hull, use a rust remover or a hydrochloric acid solution to eliminate it			
21. Ensure that all cracks and damages on the plastic above the waterline are repaired			
22. Prepare the part of the yacht above the waterline for polishing and waxing			
23. Polish the hull			
24. Eliminate the remaining flaking layer using a spatula or other mechanical or chemical methods			
25. Clean and prime the keel damages			
26. Use P100 sandpaper to roughen the underwater surface			
27. Clean the underwater surface of dust and grease			
28. Mark the waterline again with blue tape			
29. Apply the primer/antifouling according to the manufacturer's instructions			

Don't forget the following tips:

- Patch up the part where the prop supports were when the boat was in the slings on the way to the water or inquire if the boat can be held in the slings overnight;
- Use masking tape to seal off any areas where your coveralls leave your wrists exposed – antifoul tends to find its way onto any exposed skin areas, including the face, neck and ears;
- Invest in a proper flat-bladed paint stirrer – a thin screwdriver won't work well enough to stir heavy antifoul paint;
- Wrap masking tape around a new paint roller, then remove it to get rid of loose hairs that would otherwise come off onto your new paint film;
- Give yourself enough time and avoid rushing the job at all costs;
- Keep some dermatological hand wipes or purpose-designed cleansers nearby so splashes can be dealt with quickly before drying;
- If antifoul comes into contact with your skin, wash it off immediately with warm soapy water and don't use a solvent or paint thinner.

After the launch		
30. Check all seacocks for leaks and ease of movement before being released from the slings		
31. Reconnect all cables that were disconnected before lifting		
32. Check how all serviced mechanisms work		