WINTERISING YOUR BOAT

With KBR Sailing



A checklist for the UK dinghy owner, sourced from 30 years of experience on the freezing waters of the North Sea!

www.kbr-sailing.com

THE WINTER BOAT CARE CHECKLIST

A little maintenance now can save you time, money and frustration when sailing season returns. Print this checklist to work through your boat before winter storage.

1. Standing Rigging & Mast

- ❄ Inspect standing rigging, paying particular attention to the upper and lower terminals. Look for broken wires, signs of wear (sometimes called needling), corrosion and rust.
- ❄ Aluminium or wooden mast: Clean thoroughly to remove salt, dirt and grime.
- ❄ Wash blocks and other moving parts with fresh water to remove salt deposits, which can cause corrosion and premature wear.
- ❄ Wash down the boom and rinse its moving parts.

2. Repairs & General Maintenance

- ❄ Complete any repairs that have been put off during the racing season.
- ❄ Wooden boats: Inspect paintwork above and below the waterline. Damaged paintwork may indicate an underlying issue or stress point, so investigate before touching up the finish.
- ❄ Remove salt and dirt from the hull, fittings and other exposed surfaces before storage.

3. Foils: Centreboard & Rudder

- ❄ Remove the centreboard and rudder blade if your boat's design allows it.
- ❄ Wash thoroughly, paying particular attention to salt deposits around pivoting centreboards.
- ❄ Store removable foils flat in a suitable, supported position while they dry to help prevent warping.

4. Boat Covers & Storage

- ❄ Storing at home? If practical, turn the boat upside down and support it securely on suitable trestles. This helps prevent rainwater collecting inside and reduces the risk of covers blowing off.
- ❄ Leaving the boat outside? Avoid wrapping it too tightly. Good air circulation helps the boat dry and reduces the risk of mould and corrosion.
- ❄ Storing fully rigged? Use a cover that is both waterproof and breathable.
- ❄ Leaving the mast up? Remove the running rigging and replace it with mousing lines to help protect your ropes from the elements.

5. Ropes & Running Rigging

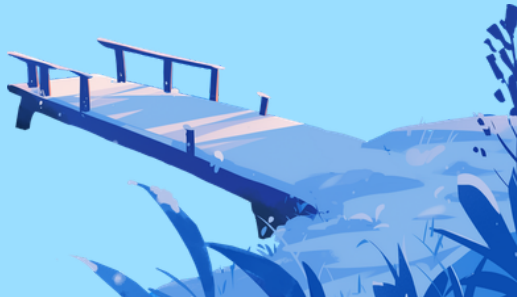
- ❄ Remove control lines and store them indoors where possible.
- ❄ Wash ropes with soapy water and allow them to dry thoroughly before storing. Prolonged exposure to moisture and winter sunlight can shorten their service life.
- ❄ Check ropes for fraying, stiffness, wear and damage. Replace anything that is no longer fit for purpose.

6. Road Trailer & Tyres

- ❄ Choose a suitable, secure storage location for your boat and trailer.
- ❄ If removing the road wheels, store the tyres out of direct sunlight.
- ❄ Support the trailer securely using suitable stands or supports. Do not rely on loose bricks or unstable supports.
- ❄ If leaving tyres on, check tyre pressures and condition before storage and periodically throughout winter. Tyres can lose pressure and develop cracks when left unused for long periods.

7. Get Ready for Next Season with KBR Sailing

- ❄ Upgrade your hardware: Browse KBR Sailing for replacement fittings, blocks, cleats and other sailing essentials.
- ❄ Replace your rigging: If your rigging is due for replacement, send it to Kev at KBR Sailing. We can use your existing rigging as a template to make a new set using high-quality wire, ready for the season ahead.
- ❄ Get ahead with Christmas shopping: Find the perfect gift for the sailors in your life with a range of sailing equipment and accessories at KBR Sailing. Get winter-ready and shop online at www.kbr-sailing.com



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