

Capt. Nitzan's

Commissioning Punch List:

Before Launch

Exterior

Boat bottom

- General bottom condition and re-paint if needed
- Prop(s) in place, rotating smoothly and generally in good condition (look for chipping, signs of corrosion or metal deterioration). Make sure the cutter pin is in place or replace it if it seems bent or not intact.
- On inboard motors, try moving the boat's shaft by holding onto the prop. If it wiggles - you may need to replace the cutlass bearing.
- Place shaft zincs/collar anodes on your boat's shaft.
- Inspect the rudder and the rudder stock - check for any visible damages and make sure the rudder stock isn't bent.
- Check the hull for blisters, distortions and stress cracks.

On deck

- Operate the wheel or tiller to ensure the steering works correctly.
- Make sure all life lines, stanchions and toe-rails are in place and in good condition.
- Inspect anchor and rod, make sure that one end of the rod is attached to the boat while the attachment to the anchor is secure and in good condition. Clean and lubricate the anchor and chain as needed. Replace rusty chains and chafed/frayed lines.
- Inspect spring lines (dock lines) and for chafe and wear, consider renewing as necessary.
- If equipped, ensure that the stern under-waterline drain plug is installed.
- Make sure cockpit/deck above-waterline drains are clear and clean. Replace strainers as needed.
- Check your shore power cable connections, look for burns or extreme bends which will require replacing the shore power. Make sure the boat outlet is in good condition and dry.

Sailboat Rig

- Inspect swage fittings for cracks and heavy rust.
- Inspect line inventory: halyards, sheets, travelers, spring lines. Make sure all lines are in good condition, consider replacing lines as needed.

- Inspect all stays and shrouds for fraying.
- Remove tape on turnbuckles and spray threads with a lubricant, preferably Teflon.
- Replace old tape with fresh tape. If you suspect the core around a chainplate is damp, remove the chainplate to inspect and make repairs.

Interior

- Inspect all hoses and make sure they are not overly stiff, rotting, leaking or cracking. Make sure all hoses are in place and snugged neatly.
- Inspect all hose clamps and replace as necessary. Make sure to double clamp fuel lines and exhaust hoses with marine-rated stainless hose clamps.
- Make sure all seacock valves are lubricated, operating smoothly and clean of corrosion.
- Check the condition of through-hulls, make sure they are clean, not bent and that liquid can run freely through them.
- Use a garden hose to check for water leaks at portholes, hatches and companionways. Renew sealant or replace equipment as necessary.
- Test bilge pump operation (might need to charge batteries for that - you can get a portable battery charger in home improvement stores or perhaps plug your boat to a post in the yard if available).
- Check stove and propane or liquified petroleum gas (LPG) tanks for loose fittings and leaking hoses.

Inboard Engines and Fuel Systems

- Clean or replace engine's sea water filters.
- Inboard engines: check the shaft and rudder stuffing boxes for correct adjustment. A stuffing box should leak no more than two drops each minute when the prop shaft is turning.
- Inspect all fuel lines, including fill and vent hoses. In particular look for softness, brittleness or cracking. Check all joints for leaks, and make sure all lines are well supported and secured with noncombustible clips or straps with smooth edges.
- Inspect fuel tanks, fuel pumps and filters for leaks. Replace fuel filters, and make sure to have spare filters for the season (it is recommended to change a fuel filter every 100 hours on a gas engine and every 250 hours on diesel engines).
- Charge your boat's batteries.
- Clean and tighten electrical connections, especially both ends of battery cables, preferably replace wing nuts with regular nuts.
- Make sure batteries are secured and fastened by straps to prevent moving around. Consider placing the batteries within a PVC protective case to prevent leaks into the bilge.
- If applicable - wire-brush battery terminals and fill cells with distilled water.
- Check bilge blower hose for leaks and run blower to confirm correct operation.

- On inboard boats it is recommended to remove and inspect exhaust manifolds for corrosion once every few years.

Engine Outdrives and Outboards

- Inspect rubber outdrive bellows for cracked, dried and/or deteriorated spots (look especially in the folds) and replace as necessary.
- Check power steering and power trim oil levels.
- Inspect outer jacket of control cables for cracks or swelling. If needed - replace cables.
- Inspect lower unit oil level, in sterndrives and outboards, top up as necessary.

Trailers

- Check air pressure on tires and make sure you have a spare tire.
- When tire treads and sidewalls are cracked or eroded consider replacing the tire.
- Inspect wheel bearings and repack with grease as necessary.
- Test lights, replace any broken bulbs or lenses.
- Inspect the winch and the hitch chains.
- Sand and paint rusty areas on the trailer frame to prevent further deterioration.
- Inspect brakes and brake fluid reservoir.

Safety Equipment

- Flares:** Check expiration dates on flares.
- Fire Extinguishers:**
 - Replace disposable dry chemicals fire extinguishers that are older than 12 years. Make sure there wasn't a recall by your fire extinguisher manufacturer.
 - Service rechargeable fire extinguishers annually at a local certified fire equipment dealer.
 - Make sure your fire extinguisher inventory is in compliance with the latest [USCG regulations](#) taking effect on April 20, 2022.
- Life Jackets:**
 - Make sure you have USCG approved properly sized and wearable life jackets in good condition for each passenger, including kids.
 - Check inflatable life jacket cylinders and replace as needed.
 - Check the inflatable piece by manually blowing into the mouth pump and make sure there is no air leak, otherwise - consider replacing the life jacket.
- Alarms:** test smoke, carbon monoxide, fume and bilge alarms.
- Lights:** check running, steaming, anchor and deck lights and make sure to have spare bulb inventory.
- Aids to navigation:** update paper charts and download updates to your chart plotter software/application.
- First Aid Kit:** replenish items that may have been used last season.



- Radio:** check the operation of VHF radio(s) and that the MMSI number is correctly programmed.
- Vessel Safety Checks:** get a free vessel safety check from the US Coast Guard Auxiliary or US Power Squadrons. Find out more at [SafetySeal.net](https://www.safetyseal.net).

Boat Documents

- Make sure your boat registration is up to date. Remember to renew your dinghy and trailer registrations as well based on your state's regulations.
- Make sure your boat registration ID's are displayed on your boat/dinghy/trailer in accordance with your state's regulations.
- Review your **boat insurance policy** and update coverage if needed. Request a free quote from Ahoy! Insurance at [ahoy.insure](https://www.ahoyinsure.com). Make sure to include your marina and/or club as an additional insured on the policy and provide them with a copy of your policy.

For Launch Day

Before launch

- Visit the slip you will be docking the boat:
 - Make sure that the shore power post is operating.
 - Familiarize yourself with the location of deck cleats and make sure they are firmly attached to the dock.
 - Check how wiggley is the dock to avoid surprises when stepping off the boat onto the dock for the first time.
 - Alert your marina if any of the above are not in good condition so they can make repairs in advance or allocate you to a different slip until all is fixed.
 - Consider placing a step stool to help step off the boat if the deck is too high.
- Make sure to close all seacocks prior to launch (you will test by opening them while in the water)
- Place dock lines on bow and stern as well as fenders on both sides of the boat before launch - so that in case you need to tie up to a dock nearby - they are readily available.
- Have a boat hook handy.

After launch - while boat still in the sling

- Open seacocks of engine water intake, head intake and gray water drain - wait a couple of minutes to make sure there are no leaks or taking in water.
- After confirming there are no leaks - start the engines - make sure water is coming out of the exhaust, engage gear forward, the neutral and finally in reverse (no throttle) and make sure the boat is moving as expected.
- If all is ok - you can give an a-ok to the launch operator to release you from the sling and you can motor over to your slip.

- If there are any major issues - the launch can lift the boat out of the water for a local inspection, or even back to dry storage for further work.

At the slip

- Tie up the boat, adjust fenders as needed
- Plug in the shore power and make sure the batteries are charging
- Flush fresh water tank from antifreeze, fill with fresh water and consider adding [water treatment](#).

On a mooring

- Make sure the boat is tied up properly to the mooring using bridles
- Since no shore power is available - consider getting solar panel chargers as well as make sure to turn off all batteries when away to prevent battery drainage.
- Make sure your bilge pump is wired directly to the battery so that it is working even in case the battery switch for the boat is off.

Sailboat

Now that the boat is in the water it is time to make any rig adjustments or replacements needed.

If all is in operable condition:

- Replace lines as needed.
- Put up the sails, dowse, furl or stowe as needed.