BASS BOAT MAINTENANCE & WINTER PREPARATION CHECKLIST

A printable companion to The Complete Bass Boat Maintenance & Winter Preparation Guide. Work through the sections that apply to your boat.

Boat / Model: _____ Engine Hours: _____ Date: _____

2. Complete Boat Inspection

- ☐ Wash and thoroughly dry the boat.
- ☐ Inspect the hull, keel, and transom for damage.
- ☐ Check accessible motor and jack plate mounting hardware.
- ☐ Inspect steering and control systems.
- ☐ Examine compartments for moisture and leaks.
- ☐ Check hinges, latches, seat bases, and other hardware.
- ☐ Record engine hours and review service history.
- ☐ List repairs and maintenance items needing attention.

3. Outboard Motor Maintenance

- ☐ Review engine hours and manufacturer service intervals.
- ☐ Change four-stroke engine oil and filter when due.
- ☐ Inspect or replace lower-unit gear lubricant.
- ☐ Investigate any signs of water contamination.
- ☐ Remove and inspect the propeller.
- ☐ Check for fishing line around the prop shaft.
- ☐ Inspect water intakes and cooling-system components.
- ☐ Review water pump and impeller service history.
- ☐ Inspect fuel lines, filters, and connections.
- ☐ Check steering and power trim systems.
- ☐ Inspect sacrificial anodes and corrosion-prone areas.
- ☐ Lubricate designated service points.
- ☐ Complete manufacturer-specific storage procedures if applicable.

© 2026 BASSIN' USA. All rights reserved. • bassinusa.com • General guidance; consult manufacturer manuals.

4. Battery Maintenance & Storage

- ☐ Identify the type and purpose of each battery.
- ☐ Inspect battery terminals and cable connections.
- ☐ Check for corrosion, overheating, or damaged insulation.
- ☐ Inspect battery trays and hold-downs.
- ☐ Confirm charger compatibility with each battery.
- ☐ Check battery health and charging performance.
- ☐ Follow correct storage-charge recommendations.
- ☐ Protect batteries from temperatures outside their approved range.
- ☐ Verify lithium low-temperature charging protection where applicable.
- ☐ Monitor batteries during extended storage as directed.

5. Trolling Motor Maintenance

- ☐ Disconnect power before servicing.
- ☐ Remove and inspect the propeller.
- ☐ Clear fishing line, weeds, and debris.
- ☐ Inspect the shaft and drive pin where applicable.
- ☐ Check mounting bolts and brackets.
- ☐ Inspect stow-and-deploy mechanisms.
- ☐ Examine power cables and connectors.
- ☐ Test steering and controls.
- ☐ Verify GPS and positioning functions if equipped.
- ☐ Clean and dry the motor before storage.

6. Electronics, Wiring & Power Distribution

- ☐ Clean displays using approved materials.
- ☐ Inspect brackets and mounting hardware.
- ☐ Examine power and network connectors.
- ☐ Back up important waypoints and data.
- ☐ Review software updates.
- ☐ Inspect transducer mounts and cables.
- ☐ Check accessible fuses, breakers, and wiring.
- ☐ Investigate voltage-related performance issues.
- ☐ Protect or remove electronics for winter storage.

© 2026 BASSIN' USA. All rights reserved. • bassinusa.com • General guidance; consult manufacturer manuals.

7. Livewell, Bilge & Plumbing

- ☐ Clean livewell compartments and screens.
- ☐ Inspect livewell lids, seals, and drains.
- ☐ Test fill, aeration, and recirculation systems.
- ☐ Inspect accessible pump cartridges and intakes.
- ☐ Remove debris from the bilge compartment.
- ☐ Test manual and automatic bilge pump operation.
- ☐ Confirm proper water discharge.
- ☐ Inspect hoses, clamps, valves, and fittings.
- ☐ Investigate leaks or unusual water accumulation.
- ☐ Drain and winterize plumbing as required.

8. Hull, Deck & Interior Maintenance

- ☐ Thoroughly wash the hull and deck.
- ☐ Inspect for cracks, gouges, or impact damage.
- ☐ Clean and dry carpeting and flooring.
- ☐ Inspect upholstery and seat hardware.
- ☐ Empty and clean storage compartments.
- ☐ Check drainage channels and seals.
- ☐ Inspect hinges, latches, and mounting hardware.
- ☐ Address corrosion or damaged surfaces.
- ☐ Allow the boat to dry before covering.

9. Boat Trailer Maintenance

- ☐ Check tire pressure and tire condition.
- ☐ Inspect tire age and the spare tire.
- ☐ Inspect wheels and lug nuts.
- ☐ Check wheel bearings, hubs, and seals.
- ☐ Inspect the braking system.
- ☐ Test all trailer lights.
- ☐ Inspect wiring and electrical connectors.
- ☐ Check winch strap, bow stop, and safety chain.
- ☐ Inspect coupler and breakaway equipment.
- ☐ Check frame, axles, suspension, bunks, and rollers.
- ☐ Inspect transom tie-down straps.
- ☐ Prepare the trailer for prolonged storage if needed.

© 2026 BASSIN' USA. All rights reserved. • bassinusa.com • General guidance; consult manufacturer manuals.

10. Winter Storage Preparation

- ☐ Complete all required outboard storage service.
- ☐ Follow the correct fuel treatment procedure.
- ☐ Inspect or change lower-unit lubricant as required.
- ☐ Position the outboard for proper drainage and storage.
- ☐ Drain and protect livewell and bilge plumbing.
- ☐ Prepare all batteries according to their chemistry.
- ☐ Remove unnecessary or moisture-sensitive equipment.
- ☐ Clean and completely dry the boat.
- ☐ Inspect compartments for trapped moisture.
- ☐ Install a properly supported and ventilated cover.
- ☐ Check the trailer and storage location.
- ☐ Schedule periodic inspections during storage.

11. Winter Fishing Maintenance

- ☐ Check weather, water, and launch conditions.
- ☐ Verify batteries and critical electrical systems.
- ☐ Inspect safety equipment.
- ☐ Drain the outboard as directed after use.
- ☐ Drain or protect livewell and bilge plumbing.
- ☐ Remove trapped water from compartments.
- ☐ Inspect trailer for ice and freezing-related problems.
- ☐ Check the boat again before temperatures fall below freezing.

13. Maintenance Schedule

- ☐ After every trip: inspect props, drain water, recharge batteries appropriately, dry gear, and note issues.
- ☐ Periodically: inspect electrical connections, pumps, trailer, fluids, and safety gear.
- ☐ At service intervals: perform manufacturer-specified engine, fuel, lubrication, and steering service.
- ☐ Before winter storage: winterize motor and plumbing, prepare batteries, clean, cover, and record work.
- ☐ Before spring: verify systems, steering, trailer, and safety equipment; complete an operational test.

© 2026 BASSIN' USA. All rights reserved. • bassinusa.com • General guidance; consult manufacturer manuals.

14. Spring Preparation

- ☐ Remove cover and inspect the boat.
- ☐ Check for rodents, moisture, and storage damage.
- ☐ Install and test batteries.
- ☐ Inspect fuel and fluid systems.
- ☐ Verify engine service and operating condition.
- ☐ Test electronics and trolling motor.
- ☐ Test bilge, livewell, and aeration systems.
- ☐ Inspect trailer components.
- ☐ Confirm drain plugs and safety equipment.
- ☐ Perform a controlled initial on-water test.

NOTES / REPAIRS TO FOLLOW UP

Safety reminder: This checklist is a general reference, not a substitute for the owner's manual. Service intervals and storage procedures vary by model. Seek qualified marine service for safety-critical problems.

© 2026 BASSIN' USA. All rights reserved. • bassinusa.com • General guidance; consult manufacturer manuals.