

CHECKLIST: PRE-SAIL ENGINE CHECKS

The engine manual will advise, but this is a useful guide:

Fuel

- Check there is enough fuel for the passage & carry a can of spare fuel as well.
- Use fuel treatment regularly to absorb water from fuel, if necessary, & prevent the growth of diesel bug.

Engine

- Engine compartment:** Open & look around. Look for oil or water leaks, or loose wires.
- Belts:** Check they are sound & tight.
- Seawater inlet valve:** Check it is open & the strainer clear.
- Oil level:** Check with the dipstick, but do not overfill.
- Header tank:** Check the fresh water level.
- Fuel pre-filter:** Check & drain any water.
- Put the gearbox in neutral, start the engine, & run it at medium revs to warm it up.
- Check the ahead / astern operation, cooling water discharge, oil pressure & that batteries are charging.
- Stern gland:** Check this periodically for leaks while the engine is running. Tighten the grease filler, if there is one, as required.
- Anodes:** Check on a regular basis - as often as every two months if the boat is kept in the water.

Gearbox

- Oil:** Check weekly when the engine is running & is warm.

At sea

- Keep an eye on the instruments that monitor oil pressure, temperature & battery charging.
- Check inside the engine compartment occasionally for signs of a leak.