

GUIDANCE NOTE 4: PREPARING FOR WINTER AFLOAT

Preparations for Winter Afloat:

1. **All sails and canvas work** must be removed by 1st November unless you intend to use the boat regularly over the winter
2. For yachts fitted with a **furling headsail**; this should be secured by wrapping at least two turns of the sheet around the furled sail ensuring that the sheets and the furling line are securely tied off
3. For yachts fitted with a **furling mainsail**; this should be fully furled and a line secured through the clew of the sail, around the mast and tied off securely
4. All **mooring lines** must be of good quality and properly led (see Guidance Note 1). We recommend that multi-plait rope is used for the mooring of vessels – never use polypropylene rope as it provides very poor holding strength
5. **Fenders and fender lines** should be checked. If you require air to be added to your fenders please bring your fender(s) to the marina reception and speak to the marina manager
6. From time-to-time it may be necessary to place **additional lines** on your boat. Please ensure that 2 spare mooring lines of suitable length and diameter for your boat are accessible to marina staff
7. The most common reasons for mooring failure is as a result of **chafe to mooring lines** or a failure of the boats mooring point. Fairleads and cleats should be checked to ensure they are strong enough for the task in hand and that there are no sharp edges which may prompt the chafing of lines
8. All **dinghies must be removed** from the water. We suggest that these are deflated and stored ashore
9. We suggest that **diesel tanks are filled** before the winter and that the fuel is treated with a proprietary fuel treatment biocide
10. Ensure all **canopies and covers** are well attached and in serviceable condition – a good gale quickly seeks out weaknesses. Some power boats with high aspect canopies are particularly susceptible and it may be prudent to have a tonneau cover manufactured for use in the winter
11. Make sure **bilges are dry and that your bilge pump** is fully working. To prevent pollution we recommend that a 'bilge sock' is placed in the bilge or a filter is used
12. Fitting a small greenhouse-type **heater and a dehumidifier** can assist in keeping your boat dry over the winter
13. Stand all **upholstery** on its edge (or store off the boat) and removed bedding to a dry place. For yachts, sails should ideally be stored away from the boat to stop them going mouldy. If you require any repairs to covers or sails then Saturn Sails (+44 (0) 1475 729 838) can collect from the marina. Please let the marina office know if you wish to take advantage of this service
14. Remove your **outboard for servicing** and take off any old petrol. Clyde Outboard Services (+44 (0) 1475 635 700) can arrange to collect and service your outboard)
15. If you are **winterising your engine** please let the marina manager know so that a note can be made in your file.