

How to Prepare your Boat for Winter Storage

Self storage rental units are an inexpensive, secure option to dry-dock your boat for the winter. However, you'll want to take a few steps to properly prepare your boat for long-term boat storage. These preparations will ensure that your boat is ready for use when the temperatures rise again.

How to Prepare Your Boat for Winter In Self-Storage Rental Units

1. Clean your boat thoroughly before putting it into storage. This will allow you to see any damage to the boat that needs to be repaired.
2. Make necessary repairs. When you retrieve your boat from your self-storage rental in the spring or summer, you'll probably be eager to use it as soon as possible. Making repairs before you rent storage space for the winter ensures that your craft will be ready to go the next time you want to put it in the water.
3. Winterize the boat motor. Most boats should have fuel stabilizer added to the motor before being put into a self-storage rental unit. Read your boat's manual for specific instructions on how best to prepare your motor for winter.
4. Flush the cooling system. You can purchase a flushing kit from a boat supply store or a boat dealer. When you call to rent self-storage, you may also be able to purchase additional supplies for winterizing your boat.

Once your boat is ready for storage, look to a storage professional that allows drive up access and offers additional security to protect your boat while it's away from your home. You can rent storage space that allows you 24 hour access as well.

Don't Forget about the Trailer!!

Preparing Your Boat Trailer for Storage

At most storage facilities, you'll be storing your boat on a trailer. Preparing your boat and your trailer are equally important to get the watercraft ready for storage.

To prepare your trailer, check the pressure on all the tires and tighten all the lug nuts on the wheels. Make sure the wiring is in order— your lights should be working to and from the storage facility. If you're storing the boat outside, buy an outboard motor lock to secure and protect this valuable and vulnerable piece. If you're storing for more than a few months outside, cover the tires to protect them from cracking from sun damage. Lastly, chock the wheels of the trailer and use a trailer lock to secure the boat to a large, sturdy object.