

How to Store Your Craft During Winter

As the winter months advance, those who own boats must start to contemplate just how they are going to store their delicate machine, not to mention just how to properly insulate and prepare it for the cold.

When one lives in a severely cold climate, it is obvious that you must leave your boat out of the water during this time. The first option would be to keep the boat indoors where it is dry, or whether to gamble and store it outside.

Clearly if you use an outboard motor with your boat, you can store the motor indoors and the boat itself outdoors. This might be a fairly simple solution. However, if you are thinking about outdoor boat storage and your craft has an inboard engine, there are additional factors to consider with your decision.

It is completely safe to keep your boat outside during winter, even if you have low temperatures and considerable snowfall. But if temperatures do fall below minus zero or in that range for a long time then storing your craft outdoor may cause damage to the boat.

Sub-zero can harm engines and other parts, which might result in costly repairs. Thus outside boat storage can be adopted by most of us but those who live in extreme climates should find another solution.

When you store your craft outdoor then make sure that you check the manufacturer's suggestions when winterizing your boat. Also seek the advice of your dealer in case of any doubts. Use only those products for winterizing process which is approved by the manufacturer and if you use any other products your boat warranty may become void.

Engines may need to be drained or winterized with special oils and coolants. Any sensitive or expensive equipment that can be easily removed from the boat should be stored indoors in a secure location. You will need to cover the boat completely with a durable tarp. Do not buy cheap plastic tarps for this purpose. Go with heavy-duty canvas, and make sure it is large enough to completely cover the boat with coverage on all sides.

When warm weather blooms, immediately remove the tarp and closely examine for damages. Search for signs of rotting, cracks, or animal intervention. Any damage that occurs should be repaired rapidly and before being used in water again.

If you follow manufacturer's instructions for outdoor boat storage, cover your craft with a high-quality tarp, and regularly check on the boat during the winter, you will have no problems and be on the water at the first sign of spring.

About the Author

Dane Masters is an accomplished niche website developer and author. To learn more about [blue book value boats](#), please visit [small fishing boats](#) for current articles and discussions.

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