

PRESS RELEASE

Contact: Teleflex Marine, T: +44 (0)1202 828010 E: ajarvis@teleflex.com
Alan McMurtry, Scene Media T: +44 (0)23 8045 4183 E: marine@scene-media.co.uk

PREPARE YOUR BOAT FOR THE SEASON AHEAD

A Little Maintenance At The Beginning Of The Season Can Help Ensure Trouble-Free Boating All Summer Long Say Experts At Sierra International

By Dennis Zirkelbach - Director of Marketing, Teleflex Marine

SOUTHAMPTON, UK (March 2010) - Today's powerboats are complex machines and marvels of modern technology, with computer-controlled engines, electronic controls, power-assisted hydraulic steering, sophisticated navigation systems and much more. One thing hasn't changed from the "old days" however - a breakdown in even the most basic component can end a day of boating fun even before it begins. Often, it's the purely avoidable mishaps - a ruptured cooling hose, an electrical short, a clogged fuel filter or a broken water pump impeller that can have you limping back to the dock.



To help prevent these things happening, engines should be inspected as part of a comprehensive pre-season check.

Fuel System — Each engine should have a dedicated fuel/water separator filter to remove water, particulates and other impurities that can cause fuel system troubles or even engine damage. These should be replaced before each season and inspected periodically during the season. If a petrol-powered boat doesn't have one, install a premium quality water separating fuel filter and bracket. If the boat will be used primarily in salt water, installing a stainless steel fuel filter bracket will greatly extend the life of the filter system and reduce maintenance issues. If the vessel already has a filter in place, unscrew and replace the filter element when performing the spring check. Visually inspect any in-line fuel filters, fuel lines and fuel line connectors between the fuel tank and the engine. Filters should be clean (and replaced each season), fuel lines and connectors should fit snugly and not exhibit signs of brittleness, abrasion or excessive wear. If they do, replace them. Sierra offers a range of fuel filters and fuel lines suitable for most engines and fuels.

Cooling System — Cooling problems can ruin a day of boating, or in extreme cases cause serious engine damage. Visually inspect the external elements of the engine cooling system, starting with cooling hoses. Coolant intake hoses should be flexible — not stiff — and shouldn't exhibit any external signs of cracking. If these things are noted, replace them. Check to ensure

that stainless steel hose clamps are used and tightened securely (intakes and through-hull fittings below the waterline should always be double-clamped for safety). Inspect the water pump and impeller, and if needed, replace. Telltale signs of corrosion on the engine block can indicate leakage around gaskets and fittings that may be worn and need replacement.

Electrical System — This is like a boat's circulatory system, with the electrical power its lifeblood. This is true more than ever, given that much of a boat's critical system is driven by sophisticated electronics. Beginning at the battery and moving outward to every piece of electronics, poor connections and faulty wiring lower the efficiency of the system and rob a boat of electrical power. Visually inspect battery terminals for looseness and corrosion. Clean and tighten as necessary, then treat with an anti-corrosion coating for protection such as Sierra White Lithium Grease. If battery cable ends are frayed or corrosion has intruded into the insulation, replace the battery cables and terminals. Make sure there is adequate main circuit protection. Inspect the wiring and minimize unnecessary splices and connections; each of these is an opportunity for corrosion to take hold and cause problems. Check all wiring connections at the circuit breaker panels and bus bars to make sure everything is securely connected. Terminate all bare wire ends with quality marine solderless terminals and connectors.

Pumps & Hoses — Unfortunately, many boaters don't know whether their bilge pumps, livewell pumps, hoses and fittings, etc. are in working order until they need them — and that can be too late. Visually inspect bilge and bait pumps for external cracks or damage, check hose connections, clamps and the condition of the hoses themselves. Test their operation, as well as that of automatic float switches. Check to ensure that through hull fittings and strainers are in good condition and free of debris.

Trailer Care — Trailer maintenance often gets overlooked when preparing a boat for the season. This is unfortunate because before they get to the fun, many boat owners first have to get their boat to the water. So make trailer inspection and care a part of each spring check. Repeated immersion in water — especially saltwater — is very hard on the structural components of the trailer. These need to be inspected and any corroded hardware or excessive wear needs to be addressed. Trailer brakes need to be inspected before the season and adjusted each 3,000 miles. Failure of the brakes to operate correctly due to wear, rust or maladjustment can result in heat build-up and catastrophic failure. Wheel bearings and seals are probably the number-one maintenance issue for trailers used on saltwater. They should be removed, inspected and repacked with a quality grease, such as Sierra Wheel Bearing Grease, whenever the boat is in for service. Install a bearing protector with a grease fitting to make it easy to periodically re-grease the trailer wheel bearings and prevent saltwater intrusion.

Sierra manufactures and distributes a wide variety of marine components and parts, designed to keep powerboats running reliably and trouble-free. Among the many product categories offered by Sierra are electrical products; marine alternators/voltage regulators; fuel system

filters, hoses and components; oils and oil filters, internal engine components, ignition system components, carburetor rebuilt kits, lubricants; and much more.

Of course, a full service by your local dealer should cover most if not all of the things mentioned above but to stay safe and keep having fun, carry an "emergency kit" stocked with small spare parts and components, ensure you make regular checks and you should enjoy a trouble free season.

To learn about the many quality Sierra marine products available, visit: **www.teleflexmarine.com**.

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About Sierra

Dennis Zirkelbach is the director of marketing for Teleflex Marine. Sierra International, a leading marine engine and drive parts manufacturer, is a business unit of Teleflex Marine. Sierra manufactures and distributes a wide variety of marine components and parts, designed to keep yachts with auxiliary engines & powerboats running reliably and trouble-free. Among the many product categories offered by Sierra are marine lubricants and oil filters; electrical products; marine alternators/voltage regulators; fuel system filters, hoses and components: internal engine components, ignition system components, carburetor rebuilt kits; and much more. For more information, contact Sierra at 001 (217) 324-9400 or visit online at www.teleflexmarine.com.

About Teleflex

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