

Boating Tips for Fall and Winter

By Michael Martin

Many boaters like boating year round if conditions are favorable. So, here a few tips to help you keep safe and your boat in top condition.

Prepare your boat for winter - If you will not use your boat, it's best to have it winterized. This involves a few precautionary measures to protect your boat from extended periods of non-use and colder temperatures.

Keep it covered - Don't let your boat be destroyed by the environment. When leaves collect on the floor of your boat, they hold in moisture. The water will then speed up the process of deterioration. A cover will maximize the life of your boat and reduce the risk of damage to your interior.

Underwater obstructions - Most lake levels are lowered in the winter. Extreme caution should be used every time you take your boat out. Rocks, sandbars, stumps, etc can cause major damage to your lower unit and/or prop. A depth finder is priceless in the winter with units starting around \$90.00.

Cold weather - Dress properly for the outing. Take a jacket or a pullover just in case the weather changes. It can get really cold when traveling across the water.

Safety First - Make sure you have all the necessary safety gear on board. Being prepared heads off most problems.

Communication - Let someone know where you're going & when you'll be back. Take a cell phone & a spare battery or a way to charge the old one.