

Marine Diesel Engine checks

One of the most common call outs for a lifeboat is mechanical breakdown, both for motor and sail boats. It is important that you always carry out a daily engine checks and keep your engine regularly serviced. Here at Endeavour we have a little acronym for our daily engine checks:



WOBBLE

W Water filter

O Oil

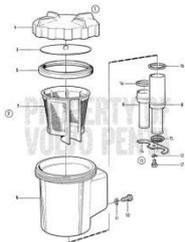
B Belt

B Bilges

L Levels

E Engine/Exhaust

Water filter



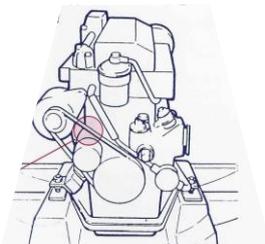
Shut the seacock and then remove the filter and give it a good rinse under the tap and put back in – make sure the cap is securely fitted and you **MUST** remember to open the seacock. The reason for closing the seacock is to ensure the pump stays flooded thus preventing any unnecessary wear on the impellor.

Oil

Check level and keep topped up. Keep a spare bottle just in case. Generally it is a good idea to keep the oil close to the top mark on the dip stick, however, do **NOT** overfill.



Belt



Check for damage and tension. The belt drives both the fresh water pump and the alternator, any loosening of the belt will reduce the efficiency of the pump and may reduce the charging output from the alternator.

Bilges

Look for signs of leaks which may indicate something more serious.

Levels

Fresh water coolant level – ensure it is topped up and you have spare coolant on board. It is an antifreeze/corrosion inhibitor not just fresh water. However in an emergency fresh water could be used until you can top up with proper coolant fluid.



Engine/Exhaust

Before starting the engine check the propeller is clear and no stray lines overboard. Once started check there is a good flow of water from the exhaust (check for a minimum of 30 secs).

Allow the engine to warm up, so it “ticks over” smoothly before setting off.

SPARES YOU SHOULD CARRY:

Fuel - check you have enough for your journey and enough in reserve if you need to change your passage plan.

Oil

Filters

Belts

Impellor

Suitable tools