



# CLASSIC Sailor<sup>★</sup>

## - How to guides -

Courtesy of Classic Sailor Magazine  
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## Laying up a wooden boat for the winter

It is hard to believe that we are one week into autumn and have already started to think about pulling out boats, taking out sweaters, and turning on the heat.

### Five (Easy) Tips for Autumn Wooden Boat Maintenance

Here are five important things to remember when you put your boat away this autumn. They are straight forward, but by following each of these 5 steps, you will prepare your boat for an easier spring launch.

- 1: Ventilation. Your boat needs to breath. Remove sole boards, open bulkhead hatches, drawers, cabinets, and so on.
- 2: Make sure all limber holes are clear and unclogged, and garboard plugs are removed.
- 3: Store your boat correctly. Your boat should be supported on its keel, with only firm pressure on boat stands.
- 4: Do not leave your boat exposed to weather. A proper cover or shelter should not allow for rain or snow to accumulate. Fresh water has a habit of leaking into places that you don't want it to.
- 5: Remove anything that can be removed. Towels and cushions retain moisture and are active incubators for causing rot. Be sure to take out any cushions, PFDs, sails, towels, etc...

A closing thought: neglect is the enemy of a wooden boat. Every minute that you spend putting your boat away correctly in the fall will be a little less time that you need to invest preparing it for the spring launch.

Your boat should be left clean and without cushions, sails, PFD's and other related equipment. Also, do not forget to remove sole boards, bulkhead hatches, and other items that prevent the boat from breathing.

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