

# YACHTING

MONTHLY

## Tom Cunliffe's leave-the-boat checklist

All boats are different, so skippers should have their own, custom-made list of tasks and checks to perform at the end of every cruise, before locking the companionway hatch. It may be a neat little card laminated and pinned to a bulkhead, or it could just be a well-rehearsed set of thought processes. This is Tom's own list, adapted for a typical modern cruiser. Use it as a starting point to make your own.

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| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Covers on</b><br>Mainsail, winches, wheel/tiller, instruments...   | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Rig bird scarers</b><br>A big pennant left flying from a spreader works for me     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Clean fridge</b><br>Leave door open  | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Double-check mooring strop or docklines</b><br>Make sure there is no risk of chafe |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Defuse galley sink nasties</b><br>Tip vinegar down the drain   | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Shore power</b><br>Hook it up if you have it, check that it's charging             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Flush the heads</b><br>Fill the bowl with fresh water, pump out, refill, add loo cleaner, pump out again | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Frap all halyards</b><br>Ensure none can slap                                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Dispose of rubbish</b><br>Take all perishable foodstuffs off the boat                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Ensign off</b><br>Stow it below decks  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Open all lockers</b><br>Remove unnecessary clutter   | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Locate car keys and mobile phone</b><br>Put them in a secure pocket                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Vents open, windows shut</b><br>Consider the prevailing wind direction                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Lock the boat</b><br>Forehatch, companionway and all opening hull ports            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Seacocks off</b><br>Check that they turn smoothly  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Switch off batteries</b><br>Unless you're running systems that need power                                |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Lash the helm</b><br>Or lock it amidships  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Check the bilge</b><br>Pump out if necessary   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Gas off</b><br>Turn it off at the bottle   |  |