

CHANGING ENGINE OIL IN INBOARD MOTORS



When changing oil in a boat, beware of hot oil, slips and falls due to spills, MSDs, and possibly serious crushing injuries if the boat falls from a hoist or blocks.

Hazard: Hot Oil

Details

- Manufacturers recommend changing oil at normal operating temperature (180-195°C)

Threat

- Burns to skin

Safe Work Guidelines

- Use an oil filter strap, band, or cone-type wrench to remove filters
- Wear oil-resistant gloves to keep oil off your hands in addition to the personal protective equipment recommended in the material safety data sheet

Hazard: Oil Spills and Splashes

Details

- Used oil can contain heavy metal contaminants that are harmful to your skin as well as the environment

Threat

- Personal injury from falls (slipping and tripping)
- Eye injury from splashes
- Dermatitis and other skin disorders, including cancer from prolonged exposure
- Ground or water contamination

Safe Work Guidelines

Before you Start

- To prevent water contamination, whenever possible, do all repairs on a cement pad away from any water source
- If you must work near or on the water, bring a spill clean-up kit to your work site (for spill kit information, contact your oil supplier)
- Use catch containers for used oil
- Transfer used oil into proper storage tanks
- Drain and recycle used oil filters
- Contract with a licensed waste hauler to remove, recycle, or dispose of used oil

While You are Working

- Use safety glasses to protect against oil splashes in your eyes
- Use barrier cream to protect your hands from oil

- Use the recommended equipment to pump the oil out (e.g., a vacuum pump with a plastic tube small enough to fit through the top hole of the dipstick) if the engine is not equipped with a self draining hose that pulls out through the drain plug hole in the transom
- Clean up all spills and dispose of the waste material safely before starting an engine
- For large leaks or spills, call the fire department
- For relatively small spills, use an absorbent material

Hazard: Working in Extreme or Awkward Positions

Details

- Muscles tire quickly when you stay in a fixed or awkward position which causes them to be at a higher risk for injury

Threat

- Muscle strain and associated tendon, nerve, disc or joint pain (common areas include low back, shoulder, elbow and wrist)

Safe Work Guidelines

- Whenever possible, keep fit - stretch and exercise your body regularly outside of work
- Get help (e.g., another worker, support for the part/materials)
- Keep your back straight and bend at the knees when transferring oil from the tank into the disposal tank

Hazard: Boat Falling

Details

- If it is not properly blocked, the boat can tip over

Threat

- Crushing injuries
- Death

Safe Work Guidelines

- Block the boat at the proper locations underneath
 - one stand every 15 feet or every 10 feet for a heavier boat,
 - stands evenly distributed on both sides of the boat,
 - one block supporting the boat on the keel right under the bulkhead (just past the windshield), and
 - one block under the transom (at the back of the boat)

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