

Defender®

Sailboat Storm Preparation Checklist

Before the Storm Hits

- Monitor weather forecasts continuously.
- Review your boat insurance policy; confirm storm coverage.
- Prepare a storm plan (relocation, contact numbers, etc.).
- Assign storm preparation responsibilities if you have crew.

Securing the Sailboat

- Choose a safe location (hurricane hole, marina with floating docks, or haul-out if possible).
- Double all dock lines with extra chafe protection.
- Tie lines at high and low tides if tidal surge is expected.
- Use long spring lines to reduce stress on cleats.
- Remove sails (main, jib, genoa, spinnaker) and stow below deck.
- Remove or secure the boom.
- Secure or remove antennas, wind vanes, and radar domes.
- Remove canvas dodgers, bimini tops, and cockpit enclosures.

Anchoring (If not docked)

- Use multiple anchors in a V or Y configuration.
- Ensure each anchor has appropriate scope (minimum 7:1).
- Inspect anchor chain and rode for wear.

Electrical & Mechanical

- Disconnect shore power and battery chargers.
- Ensure bilge pumps are operational and strainer is clear of debris.
- Test float switches and backup systems.
- Secure fuel and water tank caps tightly.
- Lubricate winches, windlass, and steering components.

Securing Rigging and Loose Gear

- Remove or lash down halyards to reduce windage.
- Secure or remove life rings, cushions, and fenders.
- Remove or tie down anything on deck and in the cockpit.
- Store electronics, charts, and valuables below deck or ashore.

Protect Openings

- Close and secure all hatches, ports, and lockers.
- Tape or seal companionway and windows.
- Install storm boards or hatch covers if available.

Documents & Inventory

- Take photos of the sailboat and equipment for insurance.
- Document and inventory all gear and systems.
- Keep copies of registration, insurance, and contact info in a safe place.

Emergency & Contact Info

- Inform marina or harbor master of your storm plan.
- Ensure VHF radio is charged and functional.
- Keep a list of emergency numbers and procedures readily available.

After the Storm

- Assess damage carefully; photograph everything before cleanup.
- Check for hull breaches or water intrusion.
- Inspect standing and running rigging for stress or damage.
- Notify your insurance provider promptly if there is damage.
- Ventilate interior and dry out all electronics and textiles.

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Motor Yacht Storm Preparation Checklist

Before the Storm Hits

- Monitor weather forecasts continuously.
- Review your yacht insurance policy and ensure storm coverage.
- Create a detailed storm plan (locations, responsibilities, contacts).
- Check fuel, water, and battery levels; ensure systems are operational.

Securing the Motor Yacht

- Move to a safe marina, hurricane hole, or haul-out facility if possible.
- Double all dock lines with extra chafe protection.
- Use long spring lines to allow for tidal surge and movement.
- Secure or remove all canvas, covers, and external cushions.
- Remove or lock down tenders, jet skis, and other gear on deck.
- Close and secure windows, hatches, and doors tightly.
- Add fenders in strategic positions to protect from dock and other vessels.

Protecting Systems & Equipment

- Disconnect shore power and unnecessary electrical systems.
- Ensure bilge pumps are operational and strainer is clear of debris.
- Secure engine room and electronics compartments against water intrusion.
- Check and seal all access panels, vents, and exhausts.
- Lubricate hinges, latches, and moving parts.

Interior & Personal Items

- Remove valuables, documents, and portable electronics.
- Stow breakable or loose items securely.
- Inventory all systems and equipment onboard.
- Backup navigational and communication data if possible.

Safety & Documentation

- Take photographs of the yacht and key systems for insurance.
- Store copies of registration, insurance, and identification off the boat.
- Share your storm preparation plan with marina or harbor staff.
- Verify VHF radios, handheld units, and emergency gear are accessible.

After the Storm

- Check for structural damage, water intrusion, and flooding.
- Photograph and document all damage before cleanup or repair.
- Inspect engines, batteries, and navigation systems for function.
- Ensure fuel systems are secure and no leaks are present.
- Notify your insurance provider and follow claim procedures if needed.

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Trailer Boat Storm Preparation Checklist

Before the Storm Hits

- Monitor weather forecasts continuously.
- Review your boat insurance policy; confirm storm coverage.
- Prepare a storm plan (relocation, contact numbers, etc.).
- Check the condition of your trailer (tires, lights, winch, coupler).

Securing the Trailer Boat

- Move the boat inland or to higher ground if possible.
- Store the boat in a garage or other sheltered structure.
- If storing outdoors, park on high ground away from trees or power lines.
- Place the trailer on blocks to avoid tire damage and shifting.
- Secure the trailer with wheel chocks and remove the drain plug.
- Tie the boat to ground anchors or use heavy-duty tie-downs.
- Use a strong boat cover and secure it tightly.

Protecting Systems & Equipment

- Remove electronics, valuables, and loose gear from the boat.
- Secure fuel and battery systems; disconnect batteries if stored.
- Check and seal all hatches and storage compartments.
- Ensure the bilge is dry and clean.

Trailer and Vehicle Prep

- Check your towing vehicle's readiness and fuel level.

- Verify hitch and safety chains are in good condition.
- Store registration, insurance, and emergency tools in the vehicle.

Safety & Documentation

- Photograph your boat and trailer from multiple angles for insurance.
- Keep documentation (registration, insurance, etc.) in a safe place.
- Create a list of emergency contacts and share your storm plan.

After the Storm

- Inspect the boat, trailer, and tow vehicle for damage.
- Take photographs of any damage before making repairs.
- Check for water intrusion and dry out any wet areas.
- Test electronics and mechanical systems before use.
- Contact your insurance provider if needed.