

# Information Exchange: Tools & Parts for Cruisers

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## Tools

Saltwater rusts tools, so buy tools that will work when you need them to, but spending a lot of money on prime quality tools like Snap-On, may be a waste of your cruising dollars. Items like screw drivers probably need to be on par with Craftman quality, but other items could be purchased at Harbor Freight—take care when selecting cheap tools though. This is a list of recommended tools for cruising intended to guide you toward making decisions about what tools you may need. This list is a starting point for your planning, not a complete guide.

Sockets and Extensions for both American and Metric

Long Needle-Nose Pliers (18” great for retrieving items from hard to reach places)

Wrenches and Allen Wrenches

Wire Cutters, Crimpers, Wire Strippers

Battery operated drill and screw driver

Drill bits, screw driver bits (check your boat to see if you need torque bits and other specialty bits)

Grinder (to cut chain, cables, and locks)

Screw drivers, take a variety: big, small, short, long and both varieties: Phillips and standard

Hammer

Pry bar, Putty Knife, Drywall Knives

Hose Cutter

Multi-meter and test wires

Taps and Dies

Hack Saw and Blades

Magnet on a stick, and long grabbers

Hemostat—lots of uses like holding on to or retrieving tiny screws (locking surgical tweezers)  
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hemostat>

## Communication/Navigation Options

Hand-held GPS

Hand-held VHF

Full back-up chart plotter on a tablet or laptop (some recommended by the group include

INAVIS <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/inavis/id557587642?mt=8>

GARMIN <https://buy.garmin.com/en-US/US/cOnTheWater-c519-p1.html>

AQUA MAPS <http://www.globalaquamaps.com/aquamarine.html>

Hand-held depth sounder

AIS (at least have a receiver, but a transmitter is recommended)

## Parts

Spare fresh water pump

Bilge pump floats, spare bilge pump and manual bilge pump

Water pump impellers for engine, generator and outboard

Spare relays for engine electronics (salt air corrosion—the green meanies)

Rebuild kits for heads

Spark plugs and prop for outboard

Repair kit for inflatable dinghy

Fuel and oil filters for engine, transmission, generator and outboard

Extra fuel filters for fuel contamination, Biobor (a diesel biocide)

<http://www.biobor.com/products/biobor-jf-diesel/>

Download repair and parts manuals for engine, generator and outboard

Oil—enough for a complete change in engine, generator and outboard

Funnels and spouts

Spare rope for various uses: Amsteel is remarkably strong for its size

<http://www.samsonrope.com/Pages/Product.aspx?ProductID=872>

Miscellaneous spare screws, bolts, washers and nuts

Spare shackles, and snap hooks

Consider soft shackles too <https://www.sailmagazine.com/gear/on-deck-soft-shackles>

Tie your own <http://www.animatedknots.com/softshackle/>

Defender carries them <http://www.defender.com/product.jsp?name=marlow-dyneema-sk78-soft-shackles&path=-1|118|2260013|2260028&id=2860580>

Miscellaneous electrical connectors, special connectors, and spare wire

Spare circuit breakers and fuses

Spare emergency anchor with some chain and rode. Stern Anchor.

Miscellaneous tape, including for hose repair

Spare hose and fittings for freshwater system

Spare hose for engine, pumps, fresh water systems, etc.

Miscellaneous hose clamps (hose clamps tend to have a shortened life expectancy in salt air, especially in areas below the waterline.)

Recommendation for quality, buy the 316.

Recommended source: <https://www.mcmaster.com/#about-hose-clamps>

Spare anodes/zincs <https://www.boatingmag.com/how-to/choosing-right-sacrificial-anode>

Spare starter, spare alternator

Alternate charging source: solar, wind, battery booster, generator (wind seems to be less efficient than solar in the tropics)

Jumper cables

Spark plugs

Spare water-maker filters and chemicals.

Rema Tip Top SC2000 glue (can be used for major inflatable dinghy repairs) The two-part adhesive product is used to repair conveyor belts. It is available online.

One source (it may be cheaper elsewhere): [http://www.conveyorepair.com/conveyor-belt-hot-vulcanizing-glue-sk823.html?gclid=EAlalQobChMI8dro2d7w1gIV1VmGCh0Sjw\\_9EAEYASAAEgIoUvD\\_BwE](http://www.conveyorepair.com/conveyor-belt-hot-vulcanizing-glue-sk823.html?gclid=EAlalQobChMI8dro2d7w1gIV1VmGCh0Sjw_9EAEYASAAEgIoUvD_BwE)

Emergency repair tape—self-amalgamating <http://www.rescuetape.com>

Starter rebuild kit

Spare belts for alternators, starters, etcetera.

## Tips

Flush outboard with fresh water for storage

Dual Racor fuel filters: 30 for first, 5 for the second (carry at least 10 filters)

Calgon water softener removes the diesel odor from your boat and hands

When looking at storage space:

Make life easier at anchor rather than speed. (Bigger sail or creature comforts?),

**SAFE AT SEA ALWAYS TRUMPS COMFORT**

Anchors:

Rochna, Bruce, Spades have the best holding for anchoring in the tropics

Chain 6-1 or 100 ft. of chain

Sand is always better than “eel grass”

Watch for coral under the sand.

Heads:

Outlet hoses can become blocked with urine and saltwater deposits—

use vinegar “or

muratic acid if you are brave” or

unchlor <https://www.marinesan.com/Unchloric-Acid-Chemical-p/unchloric.htm>

Sew Clean (sewer line cleaner) <https://trac-online.com/product/sew-clean-%C2%AE>

Barnacle Buster <https://trac-online.com/product/barnacle-buster-%C2%AE-concentrate>

Have scuba or hooka system on board, sometimes it is hard to find someone to clean your bottom in the tropics. <https://theboatgalley.com/bottom-cleaning-tools/>

Water maker systems: <https://www.westmarine.com/WestAdvisor/Choosing-a-Watermaker>

Cruise R/O = needs AC

Spectra: low amperage, clark pump runs on 12v

Water maker maintenance: if not used daily, flush, backfill or pickle the membrane to prevent membrane blockages <http://mvvikingstar.blogspot.com/2013/10/cleaning-and-pickling-of-watermaker.html>

Carry a few absorbant mats for oil or fuel spills onboard:

Pig mats: <https://www.newpig.com/universal-absorbent-mats-pads/c/5001?show=All>

One cruiser noted that disposable diapers could be used for this purpose as well.

Silicone-based prop paint prevents barnacle fouling <https://www.sailmagazine.com/diy/keeping-barnacles-off-your-propeller>