

CHECKLIST

YACHT SHIPPING PREPARATION

"Properly preparing your yacht for shipping is essential for ensuring it arrives safely at its destination."

Anthony Gates - Loadmaster & Surveyor

Dimensions & Documentation

- ✓ **Confirm Dimensions:** Ensure length/width include bowsprits, solar arrays, and tenders on davits. (Discrepancies may result in loss of shipping slot).
- ✓ **Photo Documentation:** Take dated, high-resolution photos of the interior and exterior to document condition before transport.
- ✓ **Biosecurity Check:** Verify if the destination country requires proof of pest control/fumigation.



1. Interior & Loose Items

- ✓ **Personal Items:** Clear cabins of food, alcohol, and valuables to expedite customs.
- ✓ **Dangerous goods & weapons:** remove any weapons, ammunition, hazardous or noxious substances, contraband or illegal drugs/narcotics from the yacht.
- ✓ **Perishables:** Empty, defrost and clean the fridge/freezer; leave doors propped open to prevent mould.
- ✓ **Breakables:** Remove or wrap plates and decorations in heavy padding.
- ✓ **Batten Down:** Lock all cabinets / drawers and secure all loose items. Use marine-grade tape (e.g., blue painter's tape) to prevent sliding.

2. Exterior & Height Reduction

- ✓ **Strip the Deck:** Remove canvas, biminis, spray hoods, and cushions; store flat below deck.
- ✓ **Height Reduction:** Lower or remove radar arches, outriggers, and VHF antennas.
- ✓ **Surface Protection:** Apply protective wax (e.g., Collinite) to FRP, paint, and stainless steel to protect against salt and "stack soot."
- ✓ **Glazing & Decking:** Cover windows and teak to prevent damage from crane grease.
- ✓ **Sails & Rigging:** Remove sails and running rigging. Mouse/messenger halyards and wrap headsail furler foils.
- ✓ **Tender/Dinghy:** Ideally deflate and store below. If on deck, lash upside-down or remove the bung and ensure drains are clear.

Ensure a trouble-free delivery by adopting a
"secure as if crossing an ocean" mindset.

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3. Underwater & Biosecurity

- ✓ **Hull Cleaning:** Ensure the hull and drive gear are free of marine growth to comply with international biosecurity laws.



4. Fluids & Systems

- ✓ **Tankage:** Drain all fresh, grey, and blackwater tanks.
- ✓ **Fuel Management:** Reduce fuel to approx. 1/4 tank (or 10% if required by carrier) for fire safety.
- ✓ **Gas/Propane:** Turn off at the cylinder, disconnect, and secure.
- ✓ **Winterization:** If transit includes cold climates, winterize engines and AC units.

- ✓ **De-commission:** Pickle the water maker: disable "auto-start" on the water maker, generators and fuel polishers.

5. Final Loading Prep

- ✓ **Mark Lifting Points:** Clearly label the hull's lifting points with tape for the loadmasters.
- ✓ **Punctuality:** Arrive at the designated loading location at the requested time.
- ✓ **Fenders & Lines:** Have lots of fenders and long mooring lines ready on deck for use.
- ✓ **Transducers:** Remove speed, depth, and wind transducers (if possible).
- ✓ **Sailing Yachts:** Disconnect backstays and topping lifts to clear lifting gear.
- ✓ **Power:** Turn off all battery switches once the vessel is positioned.
- ✓ **Secure:** Lock all hatches and portholes; tape around edges to prevent seawater spray leaks.



- ✓ **Keys:** Prepare a set of labeled keys (vessel name + contact info) for the ship's Chief Officer.