



News - Articles - Blog

The Masthead | Northwest Boating Information

Feature Article from: Teague Custom Marine



The Best Places to Spend Your Boat Maintenance Dollar

Money isn't everything. But in the world of boating, it's just as ubiquitous as fuel. And you have a limited amount of it—which is why it's important to spend your boat maintenance dollar in the places that will give your boat the best speed, highest quality, and longest shelf life possible.

After all, you don't want to spend money on a new gasket, only for your boat's engine to break down. And you certainly don't want to invest in a new engine simply to fix a bad belt. Knowing what needs fixing, what needs upgrading, and when to hold back is at the heart of spending your boat maintenance dollar wisely.

Let's take a look at the areas that make the best investments.



The Big-Ticket Items: Spend Your Dollar

What's a "big-ticket" item? The parts that get your boat to move, that keep it in peak performance. Investing in your boat's maintenance is worthwhile if you can extend the life of quality parts like engines, propellers, fuel systems, and more. Yes, there are other variables that are critical in the equation that constitutes a fast boat—but with a limited budget, you've got to have priorities.

Here are some of the best places on your boat to spend money on maintenance, and why:

- **Engine:** Need we say more? A tuned, oiled, fueled, properly treated engine is not only going to last longer, but it's going to treat you better throughout its life. The engine is the source of speed, torque, weight distribution, and more. There's a reason we at Teague have a section devoted entirely to engines—they're not just parts, but they're a whole system of parts. Keep your engine in shape with regular maintenance—even if it costs you.
- **Fuel systems:** From carburetors to fuel manifolds and more, your engine's fuel system is to your boat what the heart is to a body. And every piece counts. Invest in the right combination of filter, pump, regulator, and plumbing for your power level and make sure all parts are in sync and up to date for long term engine durability and performance.
- **Propellers:** Some people might question a propeller as a "big-ticket" item, but the propeller is where your boat's speed meets the water and is extremely important when setting a boat up for competition or recreation. If it's not in top shape and ready to deliver the force you need, your boat will simply not be as efficient as it's designed. When choosing your propeller, consider the choice of materials. Aluminum propellers offer good performance at a low cost for most applications whereas stainless steel propellers are more expensive but more durable than aluminum propellers and their thinner blades provide higher performance.
- **Superchargers:** There's nothing sexier in the world of boat speed than a supercharger, and for good reason. The method of forced induction is a fast and direct way to ensure that your engine reaches a new level of performance and function. If you've done everything you can to optimize and care for your engine, a supercharger represents a great way to upgrade over its present capabilities.

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