

Remember to isolate the batteries before inspecting inside the engine bay.

W

WATER

Marine engines are usually cooled using seawater from an impeller below the waterline. Check that the water can flow around the engine.

- Inlet seacock open
- Filter (sea strainer) clean

O

OIL

There will be a dipstick, just like in a car. Each manufacturer is different, and some engines have a combined oil filler cap and dipstick.

- Level (between min & max on dipstick)
- Visual check (not milky)

B

BELTS

Drive belts are often housed behind protective cases, making them difficult to inspect visually. However, there are some telltale signs to look out for.

- Not loose
- Good condition (visual inspection)
- No signs of rubber flecks in the bilge

B

BILDGES

The bilges below the engine will show telltale signs of engine health. Water, oil or rubber bits (from worn drive belts) can be an early warning sign of problems.

- Clean & dry

L

LOOK

A general visual inspection of the engine, looking for leaks, corrosion or other signs of deterioration, including the battery terminals and other cables.

- Inspection pass

E

EXHAUST

Start the engine and check the exhaust. White is good; purple, blue or black are bad! Check the water circulation of coolant water being exhaled.

- Exhaust smoke
- Coolant water