

Furuno Marine Electronics Winterization & Commissioning Checklist

This checklist is designed to protect sophisticated Furuno Marine Electronic systems during off-season storage and ensure smooth, reliable recommissioning in the spring.

Section 1: Winter Preparation (Layup)

Action	Details	Priority
Radar Scanner Position	CRITICAL: Do NOT store the Radar sensor in any position other than its normal, upright operational position to protect internal components and bearings.	 CRITICAL
Mast/Arch Security	If the mast or hinged arch is lowered, first remove the Radar scanner and place it in an upright position elsewhere.	 CRITICAL
Sonar Hoist Unit Maintenance	Lubricate the Sonar transducer shaft and hoist drive shaft accordingly. Note: CSH8L and 8LMk2 users should plan to regularly replace the grease cotton packing seal.	 CRITICAL
Data Backup	Backup all critical user data, routes, points, and system settings to a physical medium (SD card, USB drive).	 HIGH
System Power Down	Disconnect the main power source to the electronics distribution panel or bus bar to prevent parasitic current draw and protect against surges.	 HIGH

Display Removal	Clean the exterior, remove all LCD displays and processors (if separate), and store them indoors in a climate-controlled environment.	 HIGH
Condensation Management	DO NOT block vents or breathing valves on any device left on the boat, as proper air exchange prevents internal condensation/moisture buildup.	 HIGH
Protection of Exposed Connectors	Apply a layer of dielectric grease to all exposed electrical plugs, pins, and cable connections remaining on the vessel.	 HIGH
Shrink-Wrap Caution	Do not shrink-wrap a vessel for storage without first removing LCDs and sensitive electronics, as heat and condensation within the wrap can be highly destructive.	 HIGH
Sonar Dome Exercise (In-Water)	Power on, extend, and retract the Sonar dome, checking for smooth operation and marine growth. Run the system for at least 10 minutes of operational runtime.	 HIGH
Sonar Dome Inspection (Out-of-Water)	If hauled: Extend the dome but DO NOT transmit . Inspect the sound dome and tube, checking for obstructions and marine buildup/growth. Clean as needed.	 HIGH
Cable Management	Secure and tie up any disconnected cables (especially mast/hardtop runs) and consider covering the connector ends with electrical tape or a weatherproof cap to prevent moisture ingress.	 MEDIUM

Transducer Prep	Check transducers for leaks. Top off any in-hull acoustic liquid wells with non-toxic marine-grade propylene glycol to prevent freezing and ensure proper sound transmission.	 MEDIUM
Transducer Cleaning	Clean the face of hull-mounted transducers while the boat is out of the water, ensuring no marine growth is present.	 MEDIUM
Weather/Wind Sensors	Remove sensitive weather instruments (e.g., ultrasonic wind sensors, paddle wheels) or secure them and protect bearings as per manufacturer guidance.	 MEDIUM
Battery Maintenance	Check the water level (for flooded batteries) and ensure any dedicated electronics batteries are fully charged and placed on a smart trickle charger or maintainer, especially in colder climates.	 MEDIUM
Pest Inspection	Check cable runs and storage areas for signs of pests, who can chew through wiring over the dormant period.	 LOW
Chart/Memory Cards	Remove and store expensive chart cards or system memory cards indoors with the displays.	 LOW

Section 2: Spring Commissioning

Action	Details	Priority
Sonar Shaft Inspection	Inspect the Sonar shaft and hoist area for any obstructions (like birds nests or other items that might have taken home there during storage) before lowering the dome.	 CRITICAL
Reinstallation & Power-Up	Reinstall displays, processors, and reconnect power sources.	 HIGH
Software Update	Check the Furuno website for the latest software/firmware updates for all components and apply them.	 HIGH
Transducer Check	Check transducers for leaks. Top off any in-hull acoustic liquid wells with non-toxic marine-grade propylene glycol to prevent freezing and ensure proper sound transmission.	 HIGH
Network Status Check	Verify status lights on all network switches/hubs (e.g., Furuno Ethernet hubs) to confirm all components are communicating correctly via the network.	 HIGH

UV Protection	Confirm sun/UV covers are readily available and instill a habit of using them on all electronic faces when the boat is not powered on and in use. UV light degradation is a primary cause of LCD failure.	 HIGH
Open Array Antenna	Inspect the open array antenna for good sealing and check the vinyl array for cracking. Condition the vinyl using a UV protectant like Armor All or similar.	 MEDIUM
Performance Verification Checks	Conduct the following system tests:	 CRITICAL

SWR Check: Verify the Standing Wave Ratio on VHF and AIS antennas to ensure proper transmission efficiency.

Signal Integrity

Check the Signal-to-Noise Ratio (SNR) of GPS, TVRO, and SATCOM systems to ensure optimal satellite reception.

Navigational Charts

Confirm that all navigational charts are installed, licensed, and up to date for the operating area(s).

Radar Functionality

Power up the Radar system, confirm antenna rotation, and check for a clear return image at close and medium range.

Sonar Functionality

Verify Sonar stabilization, check extend/retract operation and confirm a clear initial ping/returns and stabilization.

Documentation & Security

Confirm and document the serial numbers of all reinstalled displays and processors for inventory and insurance records.

Final Note: No actions are typically performed on switches or circuit breakers unless replacement or upgrade is explicitly needed.

Disclaimer: This is not a fully inclusive list for every boat. Always follow individual equipment guidance and manufacturer guidelines. If you take care of your electronics, they will take care of you.