

Valve and Seacock Maintenance

No matter if your valves are Marelon®, bronze, or stainless steel, routine maintenance is vital for prolonged life and ease of operation. If ignored and never exercised, valve seals can dry out, causing leaks, difficulty in operation, and blockage. Marine growth can also score seals causing them to leak.

Unlike metal valves, if you have Marelon valves installed, lubrication is not essential. Marelon valves can simply be flushed with fresh water to remove any contaminants. Of course, extra lubrication can always help any valve operate smoother, even if not exercised regularly. That's why many boat owners choose to occasionally use a lubricant on their valves.

To Make Sure Your Valves are Healthy and Ready to Function as Needed, We Recommend These Two Simple Steps:

First – At least once a year simply open and close all your valve handles several times to make sure they turn with easy hand pressure. If they feel unusually stiff and difficult to turn, go onto step two.

Second - Lubricate every valve on your boat using the instructions on the following pages. Be sure to use a non-petroleum based lubricant like MareLube. Do not use WD-40.

MareLube Valve Lubricants

If you decide to lubricate your valves, we recommend using MareLube because it is specially formulated for boat valves.

To lubricate with MareLube Reach, paste, or Liquid, follow the steps listed on the next pages depending upon if your boat is in, or out of the water.



Instructions for Using MareLube Reach Syringe Kit, or Paste:



Boat Out of the Water

The easiest time to lubricate your valves is when your boat is out of the water because you can do it through the thru-hull fitting from the outside of the boat. If possible, it is helpful to have two people, so you don't have to keep going in and out of the boat to exercise the valve handles and spread the lubricant.

1. From inside, open valve to drain any residual water
2. Once its fully emptied, close the valve.
3. From the outside, generously swab or squeeze MareLube lubricant through the thru-hull and onto the valve ball inside the valve body. If your valve turns 180°, be sure to completely turn the handle both ways to swab lubricant on both sides of the ball.
4. From the inside, work the valve open and closed a few times to spread the lube.
5. Close the valve so its ready for launch.



Boat in the Water:

1. Close the valve. Since the boat is in the water, double check to make sure you are turning the handle to the closed position. If your boat is equipped with Marelon valves, the handle label will indicate flow directions.
2. Remove the hose from the top of the valve.
3. Check the hose for wear and look for any rusty hose clamps. If you see signs of either problem, replace the item.
4. Depending upon the valve size, if there is an additional tailpipe style connector also installed on your valve to mate with your hose properly, you may need to remove it to get enough space to access the valve ball.
5. Sponge out as much residual water as possible from inside the valve.
6. Generously swab or inject your MareLube lubricant onto the valve ball inside the valve body.
7. Replace valve hose(s) and connectors. Be sure to use sealant or Teflon tape



- when reinstalling tailpipe fittings and replace any rusty hose clamps.
8. Open the valve and work it open and closed a few times while checking for connection leaks.

Using MareLube Liquid:

MareLube Liquid offers a quick, although shorter lasting, way to lubricate your boat's toilet and drain valves by simply pouring it into the system. **DO NOT USE MARELUBE LIQUID ON ANY POTABLE OR DRINKING WATER STORAGE TANK VALVES!** Be sure you know before you pour!

Boat Out of the Water

You can also quickly lubricate your valves when your boat is out of the water using MareLube. This technique requires two people so you can catch any excess liquid before it spills on the ground.

1. Open the valve to drain any residual water.
2. Close the valve and remove the hose from the TOP of the valve connection.
3. Check the hose for wear and look for any rusty hose clamps. If you see signs of either problem, replace the item.
4. Position one person holding a bucket outside the hull under the appropriate thru-hull opening to catch the run-off.
5. From inside, slowly pour MareLube Liquid into the top of the valve, opening and closing the valve several times until the inside valve ball is fully coated. It is OK to catch and reuse MareLube Liquid as it runs through.
6. Replace valve hose(s) and connectors. Be sure to use sealant or Teflon tape when reinstalling tailpipe fittings and replace any rusty hose clamps.
7. Return valve handle to original, or desired position



Boat In the Water

If quick lubrication is needed for a head or drain system while you boat is in the water, you can use MareLube Liquid by simply pouring it into the head or drain. Because the boat is in the water, this technique does not work for all valve applications. As spelled out earlier, NEVER pour MareLube Liquid into any potable or drinkable water storage tank!

Done!

These lubrication procedures should be part of your maintenance routine no matter where your boat lives.

You can purchase MareLube lubricants at most marine stores, or shop online at: www.forespar.com/performance-care-plus

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