

GEAR UP CHECKLIST



LURES

- Get rid of dull or rusted hooks.
- Stock up on important hook sizes.
- Borrow a swimming pool and make sure your diving lures run perfectly straight.
- Clean or replace dingy spinnerbait blades.
- Repaint dinged or chipped lures.



REELS

- Clean out the levelwind grooves.
- Lube your reels according to manufacturer specifications.
- Set the drag for the new line and conditions you'll be fishing.



RODS

- Make sure your rod guides are not cracked, bent or missing.
- Clean the reel seats to ensure the reel and rod are well connected with no room for slippage.



LINE

- Respool with new line.
- If you don't respool, cut off the first 6 feet of line to get rid of last year's nicks and abrasions.
- Stock up on spare monofilament, fluorocarbon and braid in a variety of sizes to cover your fishing needs for the year.



TACKLEBAGS/BOXES

- Organize your tackle so you can find things easily.
- Keep hooks and terminal tackle away from salty soft plastics.





BOAT/TRAILER

- Use fresh gasoline and oil.
- Clean all electrical connections.
- Top off gas tank and batteries.
- Check all seals and hoses for leaks.
- Check livewell and bilge pumps.
- Ensure that all electronics are working properly.
- Check connections to all transducers.
- Break in your new boat according to manufacturer guidelines.
- Check trailer lights and brakes.



TOW VEHICLE



- Properly inflate tires.
- Check tire wear and tread for sure gripping.
- Be sure the brakes are functioning properly.
- Get your truck checked out by a qualified mechanic before towing your boat for the first time of the year.



SAFETY

- Pack a fire extinguisher.
- Carry a tool box.
- Check all personal flotation devices.
- Carry a spare hub and prop.
- Carry an emergency medical kit.
- Have spare keys to your tow vehicle and boat.
- Preview state laws for any required safety equipment.
- Pack toilet paper.



LATEST TECHNIQUES



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