

Spare Parts – A methodology and approach

Deciding what spares to carry and how many is challenging, especially with limitations on space, weight, and money.

General Engine Spares (single engine)

Fuel System:

- 4 - Primary fuel filter element kits (incl. seal rings)
- 2 - Secondary fuel filters
- 4 - (minimum) Racor water separator filters, 10 micron element
- 1 - Fuel lift pump assembly and mounting gasket

Cooling System:

- 1 - Raw water pump assembly
- 2 - Raw water pump impeller w/gasket or seal

Several gallons of coolant

Spare fan belts (cable-tied in place, especially if significant engine equipment needs to be removed to replace belt).

Lube System:

- 4 - Oil filters
- Lube oil for at least 2 oil changes

General Parts Inventory

Nigel Calder offers good advice on deciding what spares to carry:

- Essential versus nonessential for keeping the boat underway
- Likely to fail versus not likely to fail
- Difficult to procure versus easy to procure
- Light, small, cheap versus heavy big and expensive

If something scores 3 or 4 out 4, then it should probably be onboard. Large, expensive items that rarely fail (such as a starter) can be shipped if necessary though on a time-critical extended trip, it may be included as an extra safety measure.

| | Essential for operation | Likely to fail or consumable | Difficult to get | Light cheap Small |
|--|-------------------------|------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Belts for all machinery | X | X | X | X |
| Raw water pump impeller (wet exhaust only) | X | X | X | X |
| Spare engine water pumps (fresh and raw if equipped) | X | | X | |
| Pencil zinc anodes for engine | | X | X | X |
| Filters for all fuel and oil applications | X | X | | X |
| Hose clamps and spare hose | X | X | | X |
| Lubricants – oil WD40 grease Bedding compound (Boat Life or similar) | X | X | | X |
| Duct tape electrical tape Teflon tape | | X | X | X |
| Spare line of various diameters | X | X | | X |
| Spare alternator | X | | X | |
| Spare starter | X | | X | |
| Toilet rebuild kit | X | X | X | X |
| Faucet valve rebuild kits | X | X | X | X |
| Appliance parts (thermocouple for propane range, for example) | | | X | X |
| Good tool kit (check for odd sized bolts) | X | | X | |
| Good electrical kit with electrical meter soldering iron | X | X | | X |
| Cordless drill and bits (quality brand with wide assortment of bits) | X | X | X | |
| Set of injector lines | X | | X | |
| Funnel | X | X | X | X |
| Light bulbs | | X | | X |
| Oil (two oil changes) | X | X | | |
| Gasket set (older engines) | | | X | X |
| Injectors for half of cylinders | X | | X | |
| Freshwater pump and/or pressure switch | | X | | |
| Fasteners (wide variety) | X | X | X | |
| Lift pump | X | | X | |
| Valve cover gasket | | X | | X |
| Gasket cement | | X | | X |
| Thermostat | X | X | | X |
| Autopilot pump | X | X | | X |
| Hydraulic supplies (hose oil etc; if installed) | X | | X | X |

Equipment Inventory – leave with shore-side contact

Cruising to distant lands means you may need something shipped. Leave a detailed inventory with someone who can help facilitate procurement and shipment of spare parts can greatly improve turnaround and lower frustration – your ability to communicate may be severely hampered.

| | Make/Model/Year | Serial Number | Comments |
|-------------------------|-----------------|---------------|----------|
| Main Engine | | | |
| Generator | | | |
| Belts | | | |
| Main engine(s) | | | |
| Generator | | | |
| Watermaker | | | |
| Stabilizers | | | |
| Filters: | | | |
| Oil – Main | | | |
| Oil – Generator | | | |
| Fuel – Primary | | | |
| Fuel – Secondary | | | |
| Water (Watermaker) | | | |
| Pumps: | | | |
| Raw water | | | |
| Potable water | | | |
| Air conditioning | | | |
| Engine fresh water | | | |
| Cooling for stabilizers | | | |
| Other | | | |
| Electronics | | | |
| GPS/Chartplotter | | | |
| RADAR | | | |
| Autopilot | | | |
| PC | | | |
| Navigation Software | | | |
| Communications | | | |
| VHF | | | |
| SSB | | | |
| Sat Phone | | | |
| Weather Fax | | | |
| Other | | | |