

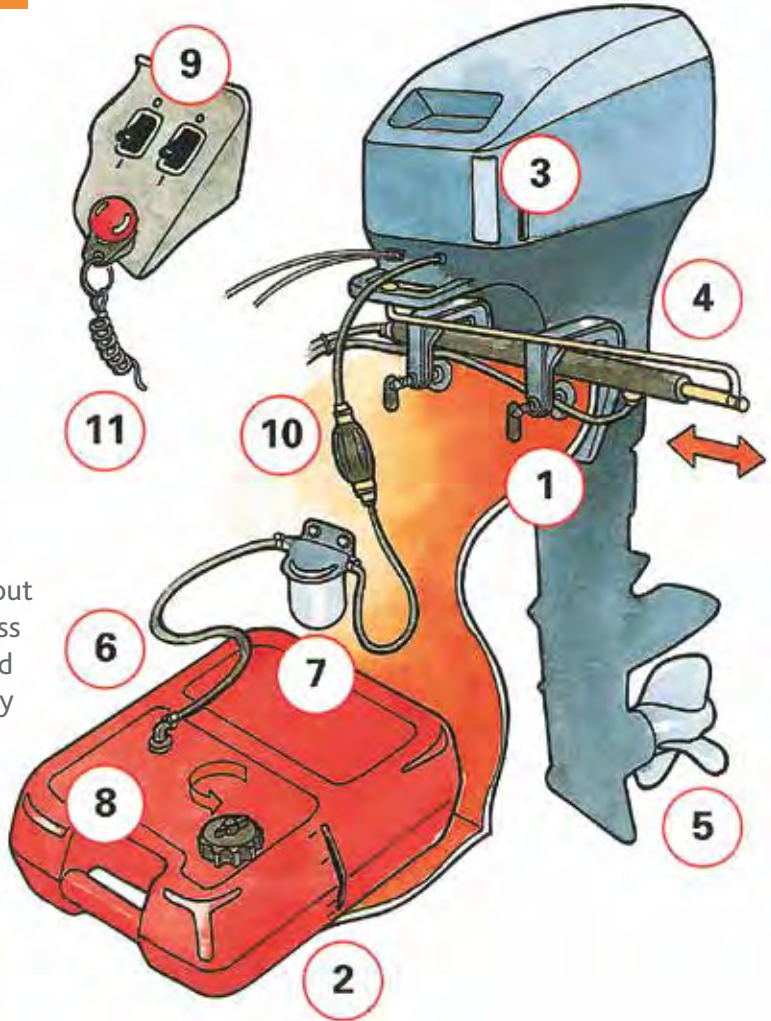


# OUTBOARD ENGINE CHECKLIST

## Pre-start checks

1. Clamps or bolts
2. Fuel
3. Oil
4. Controls
5. Propeller
6. Fuel line
7. Fuel filter
8. Tank vent
9. Battery switch
10. Primer bulb
11. Kill cord

**NEVER** run a water-cooled outboard motor out of the water unless you have arranged some other supply of cooling water



## After starting

1. Cooling water\*
2. Warm up

## Pre-start checks

### 1. Clamps or bolts

Make sure the engine is securely clamped or bolted to the boat.

### 2. Fuel

Make sure your fuel is fresh and uncontaminated, and that you have enough for your intended trip, plus a generous reserve. Do not overfill.

### 3. Oil

Some two-stroke outboards need oil mixed with their fuel. Make sure you use a marine two-stroke oil (labelled TCW3) and that you mix it in the right ratio.

Other two-strokes have a separate oil reservoir. They also require a proper marine two-stroke oil.

Four-stroke outboards have an internal sump like a car engine. Check the level with the dip stick, and top up if necessary with engine oil (*not* two-stroke oil).

### 4. Controls

Turn the steering wheel from lock to lock and the throttle/gear control from ahead to astern to make sure that the controls operate correctly.

### 5. Propeller

Make sure the propeller and drive leg are free of debris such as rope, weed, fishing line, plastic bags.

### 6. Fuel line

Connect the fuel line to the tank and to the engine. Make sure it is in good condition and free of kinks.

### 7. Fuel filter

If it is fitted with a water separator/filter, inspect the filter bowl for dirt or water and drain it off if necessary.

### 8. On small engines with **integral tanks**, make sure the fuel tap is open.

### 9. Tank vent

Open the tank vent.

### 10. Battery switch

If your engine is connected to the boat's electrical system, make sure all the necessary switches and circuit breakers are switched on.

### 10. If it is fitted with a **primer bulb**, squeeze the bulb until it is firm.

### 11. Kill cord

If your engine has a kill cord, connect it to the kill switch and clip the other end to your leg or lifejacket. Test it to see that it works.

## After starting

### 1. Immediately check that there is a good flow of water from the **cooling water\*** tell-tale. If not, check that the tell-tale hole isn't clogged.

### 2. Allow the engine to **warm up** so that it will tick over smoothly before setting off.

\* Many smaller outboards are not cooled by circulating water, but by air, so this point does not apply to them.