

Smaller vessels can choose their volume with a switchable system such as the Silent Choice or Captain's Call. Full-time through-hull exhausts can be tamed with muffling tips.

To insulate carpeted salons, first put down a foam/mass vinyl underlayment, but make sure you place the foam-side down or it won't work as well. Under hard decks, use 1/4-inch dampening sheet material to decouple the deck from the hard structure below. Sound-absorbing headers will help by "eating" ambient sounds in salons.

Cutting down on extraneous clutter will leave you with the noise you love: the sound of your hull slicing through the water.

BOTTOM PAINTING MADE EASIER

HAULING OUT YOUR BOAT for bottom painting is unavoidable. It's one of those implied "pleasures" of boat ownership. It's a hassle, to be sure. But you can make it less of a hassle by following a few pieces of advice.

- Choose the right boatyard.
- Firm up the pricing.
- Trust the yard, but check up on its work and the hours it's billing.
- Know where to put the straps for the haulout.
- Test the moisture before applying new barrier coat and paint.
- Give the gelcoat freshwater wash-downs while it dries — as counter-intuitive as it sounds.
- Use blanket heating to help it dry.
- Choose the paint — hard vs. abrasive — that works for your boat.
- Know when it's time to strip the old paint.
- Keep up with new paint technology.

For full details on making the bottom-painting process easier, see John Temple's "Avoid the Bottom Painting Blues," *Sea Magazine*, November 2009, p. 50.

Welcome to the Iced Age



A CLEAN ICE-MAKER IS KEY TO PERFECT ICE.

BY CAPT. WILSON SHEPPARD

A MARINE ICE-MAKER WORKS MUCH LIKE the units in household freezers. The process goes like this: Your freshwater source is connected to a hose on the unit; a water-fill solenoid valve regulates water flow to the ice-cube tray; a condenser unit controls the temperature; and once the water is frozen, it is ejected into a bin.

Throughout this cycle, dust, dirt and sediments can contaminate your fresh water. These same contaminants can cause the ice-maker to run inefficiently and operate at higher temperatures, which will affect production, shorten the life of the appliance and hamper quality entertaining. So cleaning is important. Ice-makers generally have four areas to clean:

- ➔ Refrigeration components
- ➔ Ice tray
- ➔ Interior
- ➔ Exterior

You will need a needle-less syringe, a soft-bristle toothbrush, a sponge, towels and a wet/dry vacuum with a soft brush attachment. Full-strength chemicals or solvents can damage the unit and leave an unpleasant odor or taste, so use a solution of 1 tablespoon of bleach mixed with a gallon of warm water.

Disconnect the ice-maker from its power and water sources and, if possible, remove the unit from its cabinet. Allow it to thaw, and put towels in the bottom of the unit to catch any excess water. While it thaws, you might as well remove and wash the ice bin with the water-bleach solution and rinse it with warm water.

The refrigeration space houses the condenser unit and fins, solenoid

valve, water supply hose and wiring. Clean the area with a soft brush attachment on a wet/dry vacuum — no chemicals. The condenser fins are sharp and easily damaged, so use caution when vacuuming them.

Next is the solenoid valve. Disconnect the water lines and the electrical connector. Then, using a syringe, flush the water lines with the water-bleach solution and rinse with warm water. Disassemble the solenoid valve and clean the inlet screen with a toothbrush, but do not remove it. Immerse the solenoid in the cleaning solution and then rinse it.

Use a toothbrush dipped in the cleaning solution to scrub the ice tray and ejection unit.

The interior, the door and its gasket, and the exterior of the appliance can be cleaned the same way: with a sponge dipped in the water-bleach solution. Rinse the interior and exterior with warm water.

Once the unit is thoroughly cleaned, allow it to air dry before reconnecting it to its power and water sources and reinstalling it. Be sure the unit and its door are level, and throw out the first few batches of ice before you start using it in your beverages.

With a clean ice-maker, you are ready for a new era of entertaining aboard your boat — the Iced Age.