

NOTE: If you are operating this boat for the first time, you must follow the engine and drive train break-in procedures as described in the previous section and engine manual. Failure to follow these procedures may result in serious damage and may void any warranties!

Before Starting

Familiarize yourself with the controls and indicators used on your MasterCraft boat. Perform all Safety Checks and Services as described earlier. Also perform all Scheduled Maintenance Checks and Services.

Step 1: Lift the engine cover and inspect the bilge and engine compartment for any fluid/vapor leakage. MasterCraft recommends lifting the engine compartment cover for inspection before each use. Check the hull drain plugs. Make sure they are installed and secure.

STARTING AND BASIC OPERATION

Step 2: Operate the bilge blower for at least four (4) minutes. Leave the bilge blower ON through the starting process and until the boat has planed.



To prevent a possible explosion, operate the blower for at least four (4) minutes before starting the engine and always when at idle or slow-running speed. Explosive gasoline and/or battery fumes may be present in the engine compartment. Failure to do so may result in serious injury or death!



Before starting the engine, open the engine compartment and check for gasoline fumes, fuel and oil leaks or the presence of fuel or oil in the bilge.

NOTE: Always start the engine with the control lever in the neutral position or with the shift disengaged. Your boat is equipped with a neutral-start safety switch that will not allow the engine to be started when in gear.

Starting the Engine

Step 1: Attach the emergency engine safety switch tether (lanyard) to an article of your clothing and to the switch.

Step 2: For normal starting, leave the throttle lever in neutral. The electronic controls will meter the correct fuel and air automatically.

Step 3: Turn the key switch to the start position and hold until the engine starts. Release the key as soon as the engine starts.

CAUTION

Do not operate the starter motor continuously for more than fifteen (15) seconds without at least two (2) minutes for a “cool-down” period. Failure to do so may cause the starter to overheat, resulting in damage. Failure to release the ignition key after the engine has started may cause damage to the starter motor and drive.

Note: While the engine is warming up, check to see that all lights and gauges operate properly. Check that the steering system operates freely. There should be no apparent leaks under pressure. Re-engage the control lever after warm-up by returning the lever to neutral and pushing the throttle button back into the engage position.





Shifting Gears

When shifting gears, always move the control lever smoothly and quickly into gear. Do not hesitate. Slow gear engagement could damage the shifting mechanism in the transmission. Always allow the engine speed to fall to low idle (600-800 RPM) before shifting gears.

Forward: Raise the lifter ball under the lever knob and then push the control lever forward into the first forty-five (45) degrees of travel. Throttle movement will begin after forty-five (45) degrees.

Reverse: Raise the lifter ball under the lever knob and briskly pull the control lever back into the forty-five (45) degrees of travel. Throttle movement will begin after forty-five (45) degrees.

Once the shift has been completed, continue to move the control lever slowly in the desired direction to increase speed.

NOTE: When shifting from forward to reverse or reverse to forward, be sure to stop the control lever in the neutral position and allow the engine to fall between 600-800 RPM before completing the shift.

Underway

If the oil pressure gauge indicates low or no oil pressure, immediately stop the boat as outlined below and check the oil level. If the temperature gauge indicates overheating, immediately stop the boat as outlined below and check the raw water impeller for blockage. **DO NOT** operate the boat until the cause for the warning has been found and corrected.

CAUTION

Continued operation after the warning light has illuminated may cause severe engine damage. This will void your warranty.

Stopping

Step 1: Slowly bring the control lever to the neutral position. If the boat has been driven for a long period of time or at high speed, allow the engine a 2-3 minute cool-down period at low idle (600-800 RPM).

Step 2: Turn the ignition key to the OFF position to stop the engine.

Step 3: If any problems were encountered during operation, have the boat inspected by an authorized MasterCraft dealer. Request any necessary repairs before resuming operation of the boat.