

MerCruiser outdrives – recommended servicing (from Jim McDougal)

Proper service is as follows:

The drive should be pulled at least once a year. This allows proper servicing of the following components:

1. Check engine alignment, using the proper MerCruiser alignment bar, and adjust alignment as necessary.
2. Check cross and bearing assemblies, service as necessary.
3. Check function of gimbal bearing and lubricate before re-assembly.
4. Inspect bellows (all three and water tube), as this allows you to run your hand/fingers around all of the convolutions internally on the drive shaft bellows.
5. Inspect coupler splines.
6. Inspect water pump impeller, if required.
7. Change drive grease. This is a good time to do a pressure and vacuum test, especially if the water pump impeller was inspected or replaced.
8. Replace the outdrive gasket set, including the drive shaft o-rings.
9. Grease the drive shaft splines with the appropriate grease and install the drive.
10. Remove the propeller and grease the shaft, and properly torque the prop nut.