

Discover the Secrets to Becoming Your Own Boat Surveyor and Protect Your Investment

Are you a boat owner or planning to buy one? If so, you understand the importance of ensuring your vessel remains in optimal condition and navigates the waters safely. One crucial aspect of boat ownership is conducting regular surveys to identify potential issues and prevent costly repairs or accidents down the line. While hiring a professional boat surveyor is a common practice, you can save both time and money by becoming your own boat surveyor. In this article, we will guide you through the process and equip you with the knowledge and tools necessary to effectively survey your own boat.

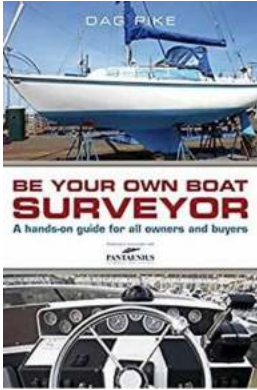
Why Become Your Own Boat Surveyor?

Hiring a professional boat surveyor can be costly, with fees ranging between \$10 to \$20 per linear foot of your boat's length. Additionally, scheduling appointments and waiting for their availability can be a hassle. By becoming your own boat surveyor, you can save potentially hundreds or even thousands of dollars, as well as survey your boat at your convenience.

The Basics of Boat Surveying

Boat surveying involves thorough inspections of various components to ensure the vessel's safety and structural integrity. Here are some essential areas you need to focus on during the survey process:

Be Your Own Boat Surveyor: A hands-on guide for all owners and buyers by Dag Pike (Kindle Edition)



★★★★☆ 4 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 198512 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 192 pages



Hull Inspection

The hull is the most critical part of any boat. Look for signs of cracks, blistering, or any damage that could compromise its strength. Pay attention to the alignment of the hull and check if there are any soft spots, indicating potential rot or delamination.

Deck and Superstructure Examination

Inspect the deck and superstructure for any signs of leaks, soft spots, or structural damage. Look closely at fittings, hatches, windows, and joints to ensure they are properly sealed and corrosion-free.

Electrical Systems Assessment

Check the electrical systems, including wiring, batteries, switches, and connections. Ensure they are in good condition, properly insulated, and free from any corrosion or loose connections that could lead to electrical faults.

Mechanical Systems Evaluation

Thoroughly inspect the engine, transmission, cooling system, fuel lines, steering mechanism, and other mechanical components. Look for leaks, rust, or signs of

wear that require immediate attention.

Safety Equipment Verification

Ensure that all required safety equipment, such as life jackets, fire extinguishers, flares, and distress signals, are present, up-to-date, and in good working condition. Safety should always be a top priority.

The Tools You Need

Being prepared with the right tools is essential when surveying your boat. Here are some recommended tools to include in your boat surveying arsenal:

1. Tape Measure

A tape measure is useful for measuring various dimensions, including hull thickness, deck width, and interior space. Make sure to use a reliable and durable tape measure for accurate measurements.

2. Flashlight

Inspecting dark areas or hard-to-reach spots becomes much easier when you have a high-quality flashlight. Choose one with a strong beam and long battery life for optimal visibility.

3. Moisture Meter

A moisture meter is a crucial tool for identifying potential water intrusion and assessing the integrity of the boat's structure. It detects hidden moisture within the hull, deck, and other components.

4. Digital Camera

Take detailed pictures of any irregularities, damages, or areas of concern during your survey. These photographs can serve as documented evidence or references for future repairs or comparisons.

5. Screwdrivers and Wrenches

A set of screwdrivers and wrenches will help you remove and inspect various parts of your boat. They come in handy when assessing the condition of fittings, joints, and mechanical components.

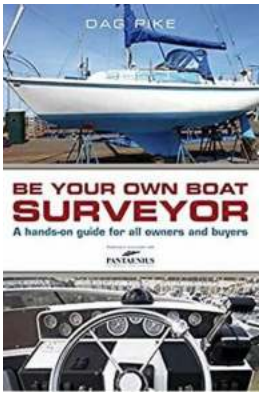
6. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Wearing appropriate PPE, such as gloves, safety goggles, and a dust mask, is essential during boat surveys. It protects you from potential hazards like toxic substances, sharp edges, or flying debris.

The Importance of Documentation

Keeping detailed records of your boat surveys is crucial for monitoring changes over time and addressing any issues promptly. Create a comprehensive report that includes descriptions, measurements, photographs, and any recommendations or actions taken. This documentation will be valuable if you decide to sell your boat or if you need to make insurance claims in the future.

Becoming your own boat surveyor empowers you to take control of your vessel's condition and safety. By performing regular surveys using the guidelines and tools provided, you can detect and address potential issues before they escalate, ensuring a smoother and safer boating experience. Remember, prevention is always better and more cost-effective than dealing with hefty repair bills or unfortunate accidents. So, be your own boat surveyor and protect your valuable investment!



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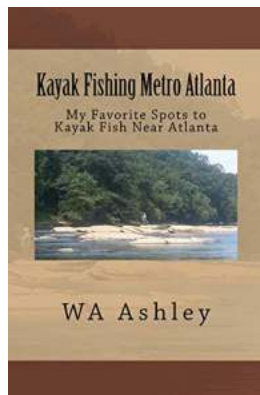


Boats are expensive and they are complicated - unless you are going to pay a professional to carry out a survey (at yet more expense) it is invaluable to be able to:

- quickly assess a potential purchase for signs of trouble without paying for lengthy reports
- carry out a detailed check on your own boat the end of the season
- identify problems and get them dealt with before they get serious
- get to know your boat in a lot more detail, so if a problem develops at sea you will be more able to cope

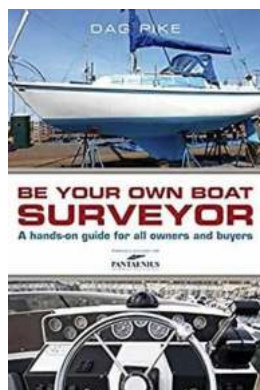
Organised into chapters covering: Tools of the trade (basic tools, moisture meters, fingers and feel, smell, mirrors, sources of information); Checking the hull (including wood construction and rot, GRP laminates, osmosis, metal construction, keels, anodes); RIBs and inflatables; Engine and systems; Stern gear; Plumbing; Mast and rigging; Electrical systems; Interiors; Safety equipment. At the end of the book there's a handy guide to carrying out a five minute survey - invaluable when making a quick assessment of a potential purchase.

Highly illustrated, with anecdotes and hands-on advice throughout, this practical book gives readers the tools to do much of the work on their own, and know when to call in the experts.



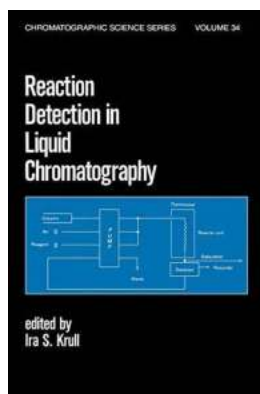
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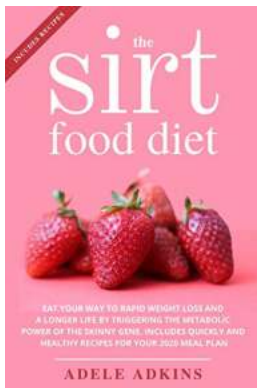
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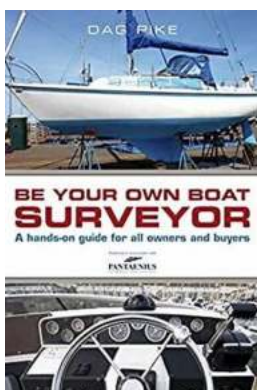
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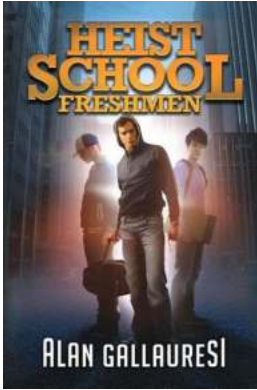
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