

Winterize Your Fishing Tackle

by TOM RICHARDSON



When the New England fishing season comes to a crashing halt, most anglers are content to chuck their rods, reels, hooks, and lures in the closet, basement or shop and forget about them until the following season. When spring comes and the fish return, many are stunned to find that their tackle hasn't fared well during its hibernation.

Tackle needs to be put away properly or problems will arise—at the worst possible time! Let's start with rods and reels:

Reels:

Remove and dispose of old line, especially monofilament.

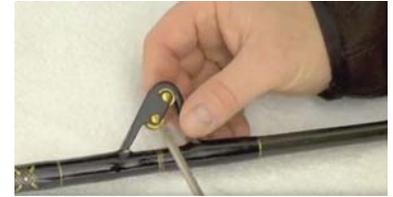
While braided line can last a couple of seasons, it's still a good idea to remove all of it from your reels, as it invariably contains salt that can corrode the reel spool.

After the line has been removed, have your reels serviced by a professional. It's good insurance that they'll keep working for many years. If you don't want to take such precautions, check the reel components to make sure they're operating smoothly and properly. Inspect the spool lip on spinning reels for rough edges and make sure the line roller turns freely. Grease the reel as recommended by the manufacturer (just be sure not to lose any parts when you open that sucker up). Lastly, coat the spool with oil.

Rods:

Check the rod guides for cracks and nicks that can cut line. Also check the guide feet for corrosion. Make sure all guide inserts are secure. Apply light oil to the reel seat and other metal parts. Apply a light coat of wax to the rod to protect the finish.

If you have roller guides on your rods, take them apart, clean, and reassemble.



Lures:

Remove and replace all rusty, corroded, or bent hooks. Check split rings for damage. Clip off any remaining line. Coat metal lures and hooks with anti-corrosion spray.

Line:

Store spools of fishing line and leader material in a dry, warm place. If you're a fly fisherman, remove the fly line from your reels, clean it with soapy water, and store it in large, loose loops. Label them, too!

Nets:

Nets are probably among the most neglected tackle items, and they can cost you a trophy fish if the mesh has a big hole in it. Make sure your nets are in good shape before you put them to bed for the winter. Inspect or replace the mesh, and clean and coat the metal parts with oil.



Have an expensive rod? Watch video with Terry Nugent as he disassembles the roller guides for proper cleaning. Watch video at New England Boating online at <https://newenglandboating.com/winterize-your-fishing-tackle/>

About the author....

Tom Richardson, a RISAA member and Massachusetts native, is passionate for the outdoors, including camping, hiking, boating and fishing. An award-winning writer, he was editor for *Salt Water Sportsman* for 15 years prior to becoming editor of the regional boating magazine *Offshore* in 2004. In 2009, he started the boating-lifestyle BoatingLocal.com, Three years later, BoatingLocal became **New England Boating**, a multimedia brand comprising the website, a glossy magazine, and a TV show, all edited and co-hosted by Richardson. In 2016, he launched **New England Fishing magazine**, website and TV show, which he also wrote and hosted.