

COMMERCIAL GRADE CAST HATCH CARE INSTRUCTIONS

1. Lubricating the Dogging System

Regular cleaning and lubrication of the dogging system components (threaded stems, T-handles, and pivoting dogs) ensures they remain watertight and easy to operate.

- **Clean first:** Open the hatch fully. Wipe down the threaded stems, O-rings (if visible on handle shafts), and pivot points with a clean rag to remove old grease, salt crystals, and grit.
- **Select Grease:** Use a high-quality, marine-grade Teflon (PTFE) grease or silicone marine grease (like Super Lube or MareLube).
- **Apply and Work it in:** Apply a light, even coat to the threaded shafts and the pivot pins of the dogs. Turn the handles back and forth several times to draw the grease down into the handle shaft and distribute it evenly across the threads.
- **Wipe excess:** Wipe away any globs of excess grease to prevent it from attracting dirt and salt.



2. Conditioning the Neoprene Gasket

Treating the neoprene gasket with car wax keeps the rubber pliable, UV-protected, and prevents it from sticking to the cast aluminum frame.

- **Clean the Gasket:** Wash the neoprene gasket and the aluminum lip it seals against using fresh water and mild boat soap. Let it dry completely.
- **Select the right wax:** Use a pure 100% Carnauba paste wax. *Crucial:* Do not use "cleaner waxes" or polishing compounds, as the mild abrasives in them will degrade the neoprene.
- **Apply:** Take a clean microfiber cloth or wax applicator pad and rub a generous, uniform layer of the car wax directly into the neoprene gasket.
- **Buff:** Let it sit for a moment, then wipe off any heavy excess so it leaves a smooth, slick surface.
- **Wax the mating surface:** For extra protection against sticking, you can apply a very thin coat of the same wax to the aluminum rim on the hatch base where the gasket makes contact.

