



Vessel Inspection Service Overview

Vessel Inspection

Know what you're buying before you buy the boat.

A boat can look great in photos and still hide serious problems. Old systems, poor maintenance, water intrusion, engine issues, bad repairs, unsafe wiring, worn-out gear, and neglected equipment can turn a "good deal" into a very expensive mistake.

The Vessel Inspection (Pre-Purchase) gives you a professional second set of eyes before you move forward.

This is designed to help you understand what you are really looking at, what concerns may be present, and whether the boat is worth pursuing before you spend more money on travel, haulouts, surveys, deposits, or closing costs.

Who It Is For

This is for serious boat buyers looking at a specific sailboat or powerboat and wanting professional guidance before moving forward.

It is ideal if you are:

Buying from out of the area

New to boat buying

Unsure what problems to look for

Comparing multiple boats

Trying to avoid a bad purchase

Looking at an older vessel

Dealing with limited listing photos

Not sure whether the boat is worth a formal survey

Trying to decide whether to move forward, negotiate, or walk away

What It Helps With

This inspection helps uncover signs of neglect, hidden cost, poor ownership, unsafe systems, major wear, and potential deal-breaking issues.

We look at the vessel as a whole — not just whether it is clean, shiny, or staged well for photos.

The inspection may help identify concerns with:

Overall vessel condition

Hull, deck, cockpit, and exterior areas

Interior condition, leaks, smells, moisture, and signs of damage

Engine condition, access, maintenance signs, and obvious running concerns

Fuel, cooling, exhaust, steering, and propulsion-related systems

Electrical and charging systems
Plumbing, tanks, heads, bilges, pumps, and onboard systems
Safety equipment and basic operational readiness
Ground tackle, canvas, electronics, accessories, and included gear
Sailboat-specific items when applicable
Powerboat-specific items when applicable
Signs of poor repairs, deferred maintenance, or expensive future work

The goal is to help you see the boat more clearly before you get emotionally or financially committed.

What It Is

This is a virtual pre-purchase vessel inspection performed over video call.

You, the seller, or the broker walks through the boat on video while Dustin guides the inspection in real time. You do not need to know what to look for. You just need to show the boat clearly while Dustin directs the process, asks the right questions, and evaluates the vessel from a practical buyer's perspective.

After the call, you receive a written summary with the main findings and a clear recommendation on what to do next.

What It Is Not

This is not a formal marine survey.

It does not replace a credentialed marine survey, haulout, sea trial, engine survey, rig inspection, insurance survey, appraisal, or legal/title review.

This is a buyer-focused pre-purchase inspection meant to help you decide whether the boat is worth pursuing before taking the next expensive step.

What Is Included

- Live video inspection
- Guided walkthrough of the vessel
- Real-time professional feedback
- Seller/broker questions during the call
- Review of visible condition and major concerns
- Red flag identification
- Practical buyer-focused advice
- Written summary after the inspection
- Clear next-step recommendation

How It Works

1. Book the Inspection

Book online and choose your inspection time. You will receive confirmation and instructions for the video call.

2. Walk the Boat on Video

At the scheduled time, you, the seller, or the broker joins the call from the boat. Dustin guides the walkthrough and directs what needs to be seen.

3. Get Professional Eyes on the Vessel

The boat is reviewed from a practical ownership and buyer's-risk perspective. The focus is on condition, maintenance, systems, warning signs, and the real-world costs that may come after purchase.

4. Ask Better Questions

During the inspection, Dustin helps identify what needs to be clarified with the seller or broker so you are not relying only on listing language, sales talk, or surface-level photos.

5. Receive Your Summary

After the inspection, you receive a written summary of the main findings, concerns, and recommended next steps.

6. Decide What To Do Next

You leave with a clearer answer: move forward, investigate further, negotiate, get a formal survey, or walk away.

Why It Matters

The wrong boat can cost you thousands before you even own it.

A professional pre-purchase inspection helps you avoid wasting money on the wrong vessel, missing obvious red flags, or falling in love with a boat that does not match the condition shown in the listing.

Sometimes the right move is to continue.

Sometimes the right move is to renegotiate.

Sometimes the right move is to walk away.

The value is knowing that before you are too far in.

Price

\$199 per vessel inspection

Book Your Vessel Inspection

Book your Vessel Inspection (Pre-Purchase) here:

<https://www.shipshapesociety.com/book?e=pre-purchase-inspection-virtual-over-video-call>

Disclaimer

Shipshape Society provides buyer-focused advisory services only. A Vessel Inspection (Pre-Purchase) is not a formal marine survey, insurance survey, appraisal, sea trial, engine survey, rig survey, legal/title review, or guarantee of vessel condition. Findings are based on visible information available during the video call, listing materials, photos, seller/broker statements, and information provided by the client. Hidden defects, inaccessible areas, underwater conditions, internal mechanical issues, structural concerns, and other problems may exist and may not be visible during a virtual inspection. All purchase decisions remain the sole responsibility of the buyer. A formal marine survey, haulout, sea trial, mechanical inspection, rig inspection when applicable, and appropriate documentation/title review are recommended before purchase.