

# Engine Room Must-Haves

HERE ARE 10 JUST-IN-CASE ITEMS TO HAVE ABOARD.

BY CAPT. GARY P. JOYCE

**EVEN IF YOU RUN YOUR PRE-LAUNCH CHECKS** and everything is in working order, that old rascal Murphy and his law are bound to make an appearance at some point. And when that happens, you don't want to be without these 10 items, must-haves that should be kept in a separate tool case or bag — your engine room bailout bag — they're that important. Oh, and even if you don't use these items often, check them regularly to make sure they're functioning if — when — you need them.

➔ **View port.** If you don't have the means to see into your engine room, create one. It needs to be large enough to let you see in and insert a fire extinguisher through. Beekson makes good ones in screw-out or pry-out formats.



➔ **B-class extinguisher.** Mount one immediately outside the engine room. Yes, we know you have a fire-suppression system.

➔ **Color-coded wrenches.** This is especially important for

items that can disable an engine — air in diesel injector lines comes to mind. You don't want to be fumbling around when an engine quits as you're on your way into an inlet. Paint the handles (you'll probably need two to bleed air from an injector). And remember what the colors mean. Straight and Phillips-head screwdrivers should also be coded.

➔ **Tapered wooden plugs.** These are a no-brainer to stop leaks when a below-water-level fitting blows out. Get them from Landfall Outfitting ([www.landfallnav.com](http://www.landfallnav.com)).

➔ **Tape.** A necessary item for hose leaks and so much more. You should at least have industrial-strength duct tape and emergency repair

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tape. Start the roll and fold the edge over about a quarter-inch so there's no fumbling when an emergency arises. You'll want to include some water-activated fiberglass wrap (like Fernco's) in this group, too. It works and can save the day.

➤ **Heat-resistant gloves.** Made from Nomex and Kevlar, heat-resistant gloves make it safer to handle hot stuff that needs immediate repair. Try Wells Lamont ([www.wellslamont.com](http://www.wellslamont.com)).

➤ **Headlamp.** Nothing beats a third hand, and a headlamp with a directional beam is just that. You want a headlamp that is waterproof and

bright and firmly attaches to your head (a three-point harness rather than the headband style). Prices range from \$90 (Princeton Tec's Apex) to \$185 (Surefire's Saint).

➤ **Hemostats.** Why? I don't know ... but you will find a use for them. Get a 5.5-inch and a 9-inch model from a medical supply house, either straight-ended or curved. Or try the GearWrench Double-X hemostat set available at Sears. I have 5.5-inch hemostats in every toolbox, first aid kit and sewing kit. They have a zillion uses.

➤ **Hose cutters.** This can be as simple as a serrated knife dedicated to

the bailout bag. Most hose cutters won't handle hoses more than 1.5 inches in diameter, so make sure what you buy will cut every hose in the engine room. Include tin snips to cut wire-lined radiator hoses; regular hose cutters won't cut the stainless wire. For a small mounted device, go to [www.skywaytools.com](http://www.skywaytools.com) and get the V8-3001 package (around \$70); it'll cut every hose you have, including radiator hoses.

➤ **Filter wrench.** There's nothing worse than trying to get a water separator filter off in a hurry ... and not being able to do it. Get a 3508 Danaher adjustable oil filter wrench (GearWrench, K-D and Matco all brand them). It will handle filters from 2 to 5 inches in diameter.

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