

If you have removed one of the components in your steering system, helm, reservoir cylinder or lines, you need to completely flush your system before replacing with the new or re-built part.

Flushing the hydraulic steering system:

Many helms and cylinders we see have had 'unknown' fluids added to the steering system. Some of them are 'leak stoppers' others are ?. Anything added to the system except Teleflex hydraulic fluid or Dexron II or III automatic transmission fluid can damage your system, possibly beyond repair since many of the plastic internal parts on the steering helms are not manufactured nor available any longer. Many of the fluids that you might add to your steering system to supposedly stop a leak will swell up plastic parts beyond repair or will attract moisture from condensation and rust the steel parts inside the system.

If you have a reservoir, remove it and drain it by removing the fill plug or pressure gauge and then flush it with clean mineral spirits.

Before removing the hoses in the next step, mark them as to the fittings you are going to remove them from. Please don't call us to tell you which hose goes where if you do not do this!

Have some oil absorbent rags in the boat and under each area where you will be working.

Remove all the hoses from their fittings at the helm and the reservoir and the cylinder, and using an air compressor, blow out each hose. Be sure you have a bucket under the open hoses to catch the fluid you will blow out. Then flush each hose with CLEAN mineral spirits. You can use a turkey baster for this job.

Repeat the blow out and flush job on the hoses going from the reservoir to the cylinder.

While the hoses are disconnected from the cylinder, turn the engine or the rudder both ways to get all the oil out of the cylinder. You will need a small container under the fittings on the cylinder to catch the oil.

Re-attach all the hoses to the correct fittings and fill the system with the correct fluid and bleed it.