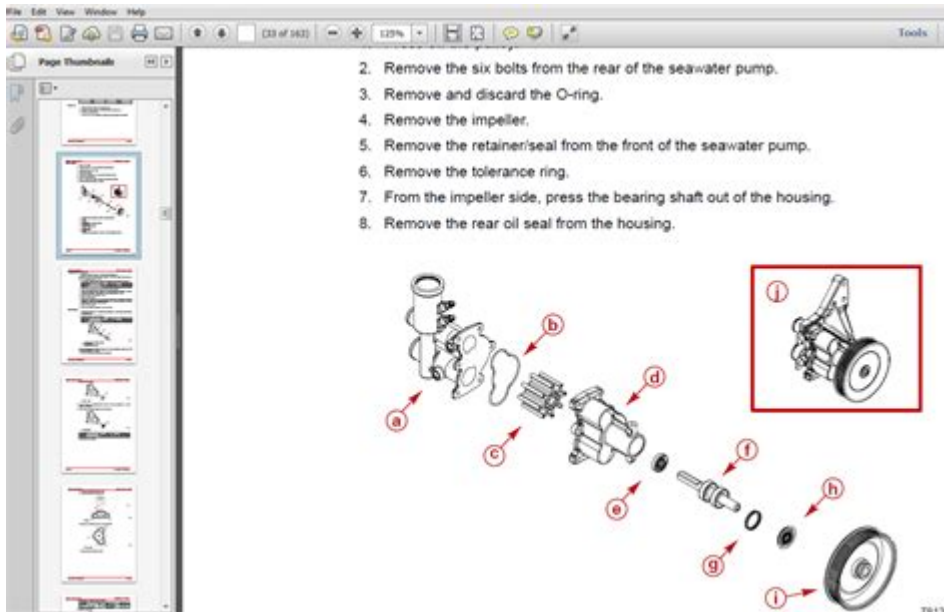


# 1986 Mercruiser 350 Service Manual



**1986 Mercruiser 350 service manual** is an essential resource for boat owners and mechanics looking to maintain or repair their Mercruiser 350 engines. This powerful inboard engine is well-known for its reliability and performance, making it a popular choice among boating enthusiasts. In this article, we will explore the key features of the 1986 Mercruiser 350 engine, the importance of having a service manual, common maintenance practices, troubleshooting tips, and how to find the right service manual for your needs.

## Overview of the 1986 Mercruiser 350 Engine

The 1986 Mercruiser 350 is a small-block V8 engine that offers impressive power and torque, making it suitable for a variety of boating applications. With a displacement of 5.7 liters, this engine is capable of delivering around 260 horsepower, depending on the specific model and configuration.

## Key Specifications

Here are some key specifications for the 1986 Mercruiser 350 engine:

- Engine Type: V8, small-block
- Displacement: 5.7 liters (350 cubic inches)
- Horsepower: Approximately 260 hp (varies by model)
- Fuel System: Carbureted
- Cooling System: Raw water cooled
- Weight: Approximately 600 lbs (dry weight)

These specifications highlight the engine's robust design and capability, making it a popular choice for both recreational and commercial boating.

# Importance of a Service Manual

A service manual for the 1986 Mercruiser 350 is vital for several reasons:

1. **Comprehensive Information:** The manual provides in-depth details about engine specifications, components, and systems.
2. **Maintenance Schedules:** It outlines routine maintenance tasks, helping you keep the engine in top condition.
3. **Troubleshooting Guidance:** The manual offers tips for diagnosing common problems and guides you through repairs.
4. **Safety:** Following the guidelines in the service manual ensures safe operation and handling of the engine.

By having the service manual on hand, boat owners can tackle maintenance tasks with confidence, ensuring their engines run smoothly for years to come.

## Common Maintenance Practices

Regular maintenance is crucial for the longevity and performance of your 1986 Mercruiser 350 engine. Here are some common maintenance tasks to consider:

### 1. Oil Changes

- **Frequency:** Every 50 hours of operation or at least once a season.
- **Steps:**
  - Warm up the engine to thin the oil.
  - Drain the old oil and replace the oil filter.
  - Refill with fresh oil, following the manufacturer's specifications.

### 2. Fuel System Maintenance

- **Inspect Fuel Lines:** Look for cracks or leaks in fuel lines and replace if necessary.
- **Replace Fuel Filter:** Change the fuel filter at least once a season to ensure clean fuel delivery.

### 3. Cooling System Checks

- **Check Raw Water Pump:** Inspect and replace the impeller as needed to maintain proper cooling.
- **Flush the Engine:** Perform a cooling system flush at least once a year to remove any debris or buildup.

## 4. Spark Plug Replacement

- Frequency: Every 100 hours of operation or at the beginning of each season.
- Procedure:
- Remove old spark plugs and inspect for wear.
- Install new spark plugs, ensuring proper gap settings.

## Troubleshooting Common Issues

Despite regular maintenance, issues can arise with any engine. Here are some common problems associated with the 1986 Mercruiser 350 and how to address them:

### 1. Engine Won't Start

- Possible Causes:
- Dead battery
- Faulty ignition system
- Fuel delivery issues
- Solutions:
- Check battery connections and charge or replace the battery if necessary.
- Inspect ignition components (coil, distributor, spark plugs).
- Ensure fuel is reaching the carburetor and replace the fuel filter if needed.

### 2. Overheating Engine

- Possible Causes:
- Clogged cooling passages
- Malfunctioning raw water pump
- Low coolant levels
- Solutions:
- Flush the cooling system to remove blockages.
- Inspect and replace the raw water pump impeller if it's worn out.
- Check and refill coolant levels as necessary.

### 3. Poor Performance

- Possible Causes:
- Dirty air filter
- Fuel mixture issues
- Worn spark plugs
- Solutions:
- Clean or replace the air filter.

- Adjust the carburetor for optimal fuel mixture.
- Replace spark plugs if they show signs of wear.

## Finding the Right Service Manual

To ensure you have the correct service manual for your 1986 Mercruiser 350, consider the following options:

### 1. Official Manufacturer's Manual

The best source for a service manual is the official Mercruiser website or authorized dealers, where you can find original manuals specific to your model.

### 2. Online Resources

Many websites offer downloadable versions of service manuals. Ensure that these resources are reputable to avoid incorrect or incomplete information.

### 3. Marine Supply Stores

Local marine supply stores often carry service manuals for popular engines, including the 1986 Mercruiser 350. It's worth checking in-store or online.

## Conclusion

In conclusion, the **1986 Mercruiser 350 service manual** is an invaluable tool for anyone owning or working on this engine. Understanding the engine's specifications, adhering to maintenance schedules, and being prepared for troubleshooting will keep your boat performing at its best. By utilizing the manual and following best practices, you can ensure that your Mercruiser 350 remains reliable for years to come, allowing for countless enjoyable days on the water.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What is the primary purpose of the 1986 Mercruiser 350 service manual?

The primary purpose of the 1986 Mercruiser 350 service manual is to provide detailed instructions for the maintenance, troubleshooting, and repair of the Mercruiser 350 engine.

## **Where can I find a digital version of the 1986 Mercruiser 350 service manual?**

Digital versions of the 1986 Mercruiser 350 service manual can often be found on marine service websites, through online retailers, or by contacting Mercruiser directly.

## **What key maintenance tasks are outlined in the 1986 Mercruiser 350 service manual?**

Key maintenance tasks include oil changes, fuel system checks, cooling system maintenance, and inspection of ignition components.

## **Does the 1986 Mercruiser 350 service manual include troubleshooting guides?**

Yes, the manual includes troubleshooting guides that help diagnose common issues with the engine based on symptoms and error codes.

## **What tools are recommended in the 1986 Mercruiser 350 service manual for repairs?**

The manual recommends a variety of tools including wrenches, screwdrivers, a torque wrench, and specialized tools for engine assembly and disassembly.

## **Is the 1986 Mercruiser 350 service manual relevant for newer Mercruiser models?**

While some basic principles may apply, the 1986 Mercruiser 350 service manual is specifically tailored for that model and may not include information relevant to newer models.

## **How often should I refer to the 1986 Mercruiser 350 service manual for routine maintenance?**

It's advisable to refer to the service manual for routine maintenance at least once a season or whenever performing significant service tasks.

## **Can I perform engine repairs on my 1986 Mercruiser 350 without the service manual?**

While it's possible to perform basic repairs without the manual, having the 1986 Mercruiser 350 service manual is highly recommended for accurate procedures and specifications.

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