

# 90 hp mercury outboard manual

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Ultimate Guide to Starting and Maintaining a 90 hp Mercury Outboard\*\*

### Starting a 90 hp Mercury Outboard

1. **Locate the Ignition Key:** Turn the ignition key to the "Off" position.
2. **Open the Throttle Valve:** Push the throttle lever halfway to open the valve.
3. **Engage the Choke (if applicable):** For cold starts, pull the choke knob out.
4. **Start the Engine:** Turn the key to the "Start" position and hold until the engine starts.
5. **Disengage the Choke:** Once the engine starts, gradually push the choke knob back in.

### Finding the Serial Number

The serial number is typically located on a decal on the engine's cowling or on a metal plate attached to the engine block.

### Number of Cylinders

90 hp Mercury outboards have either 3 or 4 cylinders.

### Oil Capacity

4-stroke models hold approximately 3.0 quarts of oil.

### Causes of Starting Problems

- Dead battery
- Faulty starter solenoid

- Dirty carburetors
- Fuel problems

### **Cold Starting**

- Engage the choke
- Allow the engine to warm up before engaging the throttle

### **Determining the Year by Serial Number**

- Visit the Mercury Marine website:  
<https://www.mercurymarine.com/en/us/support/find-my-serial-number>
- Enter the serial number in the designated field
- The website will provide the year of manufacture

### **If the Serial Number is Not Found**

- Contact Mercury Marine customer service at 1-800-262-9827
- Provide the engine model and any other identifying information

### **Speed**

A 90 hp outboard can propel a boat at a speed of approximately 35-45 mph.

### **Tube Towing**

Yes, a 90 hp outboard can pull a tube.

### **Maximum RPM**

The maximum RPM for a 90 hp Mercury is typically 5000-6000.

### **Oil Change Frequency**

**4-stroke:** Every 100 hours or annually **2-stroke:** Mix fuel with oil as per manufacturer's instructions

### **Recommended Oil**

**4-stroke:** Mercury 10W-40 Marine Oil **2-stroke:** TC-W3-rated outboard oil

### **Gear Oil Capacity**

Varies depending on the specific model and year of manufacture. Consult the owner's manual.

### **Troubleshooting Starting Problems**

- Check fuel supply and connections
- Test the battery
- Inspect the spark plugs
- Clean the carburetors

### **Diagnosing Outboard Starter Problems**

- Use a multimeter to test the starter solenoid
- Tap the starter with a soft object while someone tries to start the engine

### **Possible Reasons for Not Starting**

- Flooded engine
- Vapor lock
- Faulty fuel pump

### **Starting a Flooded Outboard Motor**

- Remove the spark plugs and crank the engine to clear the cylinders of excess fuel
- Replace the spark plugs and try to start the engine again

### **Overheating**

- Check the engine temperature gauge
- Inspect the cooling system for blockages

### **Manual Starting**

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- Ensure the engine is in neutral
- Pull the starting rope firmly and steadily

### **Mercury Outboard Code Reading**

- Connect a diagnostic tool or laptop to the engine's Diagnostic Access Point
- Follow the on-screen instructions to retrieve the code

### **Determining Bigfoot Status**

- Inspect the lower unit for a "BF" designation or a wider profile than a standard model

### **Estimating Engine Age**

- Contact Mercury Marine with the engine's model and serial number

### **Starting a 2-Stroke Mercury Motor**

- Mix fuel with oil in the correct ratio
- Prime the engine by pressing the fuel bulb
- Start the engine as described above

### **Starting a 4-Stroke Mercury Motor**

- Ensure the engine oil level is sufficient
- Start the engine as described above

### **Flooded Engine Check**

- Inspect the spark plugs for wetness
- If spark plugs are wet, dry them with a clean cloth and try to start the engine again

### **Can You Start an Outboard Motor Dry?**

No, it is not advisable to start an outboard motor without water running through the cooling system.

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