

# Marine Engineers – An Oxymoron?

One of the reasons we all go sailing is to escape the madness of the rat race and the over crowded, over regulated island on which we live. However there are frustrations even when we enjoy the freedom of sailing - the wind is always on the bow / too much / too little and the other is "Marine Engineering".

I put this in quote marks, because it is often something of an oxymoron - the marine industry is really a little cottage industry run by a bunch of guys who liked sailing / couldn't get a job and so bought a white van and called themselves a "Marine Engineer". Most are hopelessly unreliable, never turn up on time / bring the wrong bit and are impossible to get to return and carry out warranty or remedial work after a botched installation.

So I have to tell you that I can fully recommend to you **Greenham Regis** who have offices along the South Coast and have a team of very skilled and highly competent Marine Engineers. We have used them for the fit out of "Suzie Too" with all the navigation equipment and now they are just fitting the comfort and cruising toys to her.

The good thing is they really are that over used expression of a "one stop shop" and have Engineers experienced in Raymarine systems, Ship Wright work, Generators, Battery systems, Inverters, Charging systems, general electrical work and even plumbing. For our boat they even got a copy of the layout drawings and know where the skin fittings for the generator and air con plants should go, they draw up all the electrical switchgear they install onto these drawing and also label all the cables and relays.

They even take gear, such as Raymarine, and update it to the latest version of firmware for you so that we really can have hassle free sailing. The guy I deal with is Keith Ash at Greenham Regis in Shamrock Quay, Southampton (02380 636555) who was originally introduced to us by Paul Benstead of Quixotic Fantasy as they sailed together out of Hillhead Sailing Club.

They have really helped us in the design of the systems with their recommendations, knowledge and expertise and we know we now have very reliable installations that will take us even further than The Solent, when we get brave enough to step off the treadmill.

*David & Suzanne Chappell*  
*Suzie Too*