

Barry's Tips - Living Aboard

By Barry Mellor, Shrimper 849 (Clementine) (2003)

1 Inside the Cabin

- a) Sleeping comfort. Fit in-fills (plywood & cushion) between the bunks and the centreboard casing, width approx 35 cm (14"), length as you wish. The cushions can double up as cockpit cushions.
- b) Storage is a constant problem, especially when living on board. Here are a couple of suggestions:
 - i) Fit lots of netting, especially in the space above the cooker and food locker, but keep high, well away from the flame from the cooker! Also on the bulkheads on either side of the hatch opening - these can store lots of clothes.
 - ii) The lockers under the bunks get wet (at least mine do!), so store odd items (e.g. bosun's stores, nuts, bolts, shackles, spare shock cord etc.) in airtight plastic boxes

2 Other Ideas

Storage space in the cockpit is more limited on inboards, so if you are having a new boat built, think about re-locating the fuel tank under the cockpit floorboards. The stern locker freed up makes an excellent place to keep fenders, warps, bailers, sponges etc.

On inboards, the inflatable cannot be easily kept in the cockpit. A possible solution is to roll it up tight and put it in the anchor well, but remember to tie it down. This still leaves space for an anchor and chain - a Bruce type anchor fits neatly into the space.

It helps to have a well-fitting tent, which will keep the overnight rain out, and make loads of space available overnight. One tip - make sure you put it up before you go out to the pub. And when you come back from the pub, shove wet oilskins, boots, dirty washing, garbage etc on the cabin top under the spray hood – gets rid of all kinds of unmentionables!