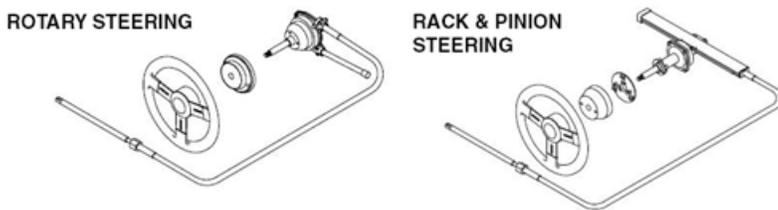


STEERING CABLE MAINTENANCE

Identify what type of steering system you have and understand the components in each:

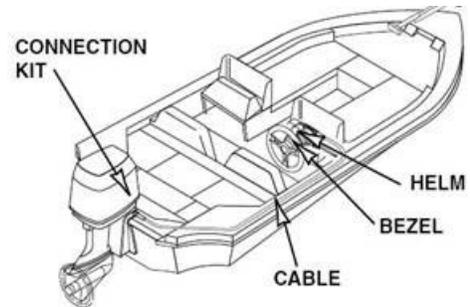
There are two types of mechanical systems

1. Rotary
2. Rack



Four parts of all mechanical steering systems:

1. Helm
2. Bezel
3. Cable
4. Output ram/Connection kit



For maintenance, SeaStar suggests the following at least twice a season:

1. Be certain the helm(s), cable(s), steering wheel and connection hardware are correctly assembled and in proper working order. Check for signs of stiffness, binding, excessive free play and/or wear. These items cannot be repaired; if any components are not in good working order, replace them. Disassembly of these items will void the warranty and can lead to steering failure. Always replace steering cables that are stiff in operation or have damage to the plastic jacket (outer casing). For more info on replacement systems, [click here](#).
2. Clean and lubricate the engine tilt tube or cable support tube and the steering cable telescopic output ram as follows:
 - * Remove the steering cable(s) telescoping ram from the tilt tube.
 - * Clean the tilt tube inside diameter thoroughly.
 - * Remove corrosion in the tilt tube with a wire brush. Wipe until all loose material is removed.
 - * Lubricate the tilt tube with a good [water resistant marine grease](#).
 - * Scour the steering cable telescopic ram with a brass wire brush and wipe until clean.
 - * Lubricate the sliding parts of the telescopic ram with a high-quality, water resistant marine grease.
 - * Reassemble, making sure all (correct) fasteners are tight and there is no binding or excessive free play in moving parts.**
 - * Spray all areas with a high quality [corrosion blocker](#).

**** Note:** where locking fasteners are used. Do not use non-locking fasteners; vibration can loosen them, causing steering failure.

For more info, [visit the Defender steering page](#) to watch our video on how to inspect and maintain your mechanical steering system.