



Frequently Asked Questions

1. Q - Why install a Schenker watermaker?

A - Traditionally a yacht is restricted in time & distance to the amount of fresh water carried in its tanks. Thanks to a watermaker an unlimited quantity of water can be produced, increasing both time and distance achievable between harbours. Schenker watermakers are simple, quiet, compact, efficient and fully automatic. Like few other things, they are able to improve your cruising and allow you to enjoy your boat. Just think of the independence of an unlimited supply of fresh water and long showers, consuming just a small amount of power. Racing crews don't need to carry volumes of water that may affect performance. No need to carry onboard bulk supplies of plastic bottled water. Now we can protect wildlife and reduce microplastics in the sea. Making our Oceans plastic free!

2. Q - What are the new generation Schenker watermakers advantages?

A - They are watermakers based on a new functioning principle that remove the need for high pressure pumps, which were used traditionally. Schenker watermakers make use of a patented device (Energy Recovery System) that amplifies the pressure supplied by low pressure pumps and recovers most of the spent energy, thus enabling very high energy efficiency. The energy used is up to 80% lower than a traditional system. As a consequence, Schenker watermakers of small & medium capacity can be powered directly from the vessel's service batteries. Moreover a Schenker watermaker, is easy to use. It does not require adjustments, is silent and vibration-free.

3. Q - Is the ERS a reliable device?

A – The ERS is an amazingly reliable device. It doesn't make use of traditional o-rings and is basically a maintenance free. The o-rings, in the latest 2.0 version, have been replaced with special "friction bands", made with a special material produced using nanotechnology. This material exhibits a very low friction coefficient, and an incredible resistance to abrasion, up to 15 times greater than that of carbon steel!

4. Q – What is the ideal fresh water capacity of my watermaker ?

A- The ideal watermaker should provide the daily fresh water needs of the boat in about 3-4 working hours. The daily fresh water demand is based on the number of people onboard and the type of boat. Typical fresh water demand on a sailing boat is about 30-40 lit/day per person,

whereas it is 50 -60 lit/day per person on a powerboat or catamaran. For example, on a sailing boat with a crew of 5 people the estimated daily fresh water need is 150-200 lit. Therefore the ideal watermaker capacity is 50-60 lit/h.

5. Q Which model to choose?

A- Schenker watermakers are available in 3 models, Zen, Smart and Modular. All units are fitted with an Energy Recovery System, reducing electric consumption to a minimum. Materials, quality and reliability of the 3 models are the same. In the Zen basically all components are integrated in the main manifolds, and there are very few external components such as fittings, hoses & valves. This makes the Zen very compact, with a special ultra-flat design.

The Smart and Modular models are based on a more traditional configuration, therefore the main components of the watermaker (ERS, membranes, valves, pipes) are separated, making the inspection and service of the parts very simple.

The Smart is mainly based on single, long membranes whereas the Modular makes use of split membranes. Therefore the external dimensions of the 2 machines are quite different, allowing the customer to choose the best option to adapt to the space available.

Finally the Zen is available with a Basic remote control panel (this allows remote start/stop, flushing and timing options) whereas the Smart and Modular are available with 3 different control options, Basic, Analogic and Digital.

6. Q – Which power to choose, DC or AC?

A - Good question. All Schenker watermakers are fitted with an Energy Recovery System, and the electric consumption is very low for both DC and AC systems. Smaller units, for instance 30 and 50 lit/h are available DC only. The power required is so low that it makes no sense to consider AC power.

For bigger systems, from 60 to 150 lit/h, both DC and AC power supply are available. If the boat is not fitted with a generator, the choice will be DC, of course. If a generator is available but used rarely, the DC will still be the better choice, whereas AC is recommended if a generator is used extensively. Even for an AC system, the low power consumption is great advantage as it reduces the amount of load on the generator.

7. Q - Is the installation difficult? Do I need a new seawater intake?

A - To install a Schenker watermaker is easy because the seawater intake is Tee'd from an existing outlet. It can be installed when the boat is in the water. The installation can be carried out by a shipyard or by a Schenker Assistance Centre. You can also install it yourself. Just follow the instructions in the operation and maintenance manual. A DIY installation does not affect the warranty, as long as it complies with the instructions in the manual.

8- Q - What is the quality of the fresh water produced?

A – Schenker watermaker produces very high quality fresh water. The fresh water produced is very pure (TDS of about 200-300 ppm) , but it doesn't need to be supplemented with salts if it is used for a limited period of time (for instance some months). For longer periods of use, the installation of a mineraliser cartridge could be considered. The reverse osmosis technology rejects up to 99.99% of bacteria, cysts, algae and mould spores. A source of good safe fresh water.

9. Q - Is maintenance difficult or expensive ?

A - Maintenance is very easy and affordable. The most important operation is the final flushing that has to be made, preferably after all working sessions. This operation can be performed automatically through the remote panel. The sea water filter has to be replaced regularly, typically every 4-5 weeks in average conditions. It is a commercially available, low cost filter. The active carbon filter has to be replaced once per year. Finally, before long layups it will be necessary to flush the watermaker with biocide to avoid growth forming in the membrane. This is known as 'pickling'

10. Q – How often do the reverse osmosis membranes have to be changed ?

A - The reverse osmosis membranes are pretty expensive, but they last on average 6-7 years if the maintenance manual's instructions are carefully followed.

11. Q - Are Schenker watermakers more expensive than traditional systems?

A –The Schenker watermakers price is, on average, less than a traditional system and is certainly a lot cheaper to run.

12. Q - Service Worldwide?

A - Because your peace of mind is important, Schenker provide an efficient, friendly and affordable after-sales service which is extended all over the world. A list of Schenker Service points is continuously updated on the web-site www.schenkerwatermakers.com A service telephone number is also available to give assistance. Spare parts can be sent directly to your boat. A 3 year warranty is provided on the main parts , Your custom is of great value to us and because customer satisfaction is at the forefront of Schenker's thoughts. Schenker believe that a great product is always combined with a great service.