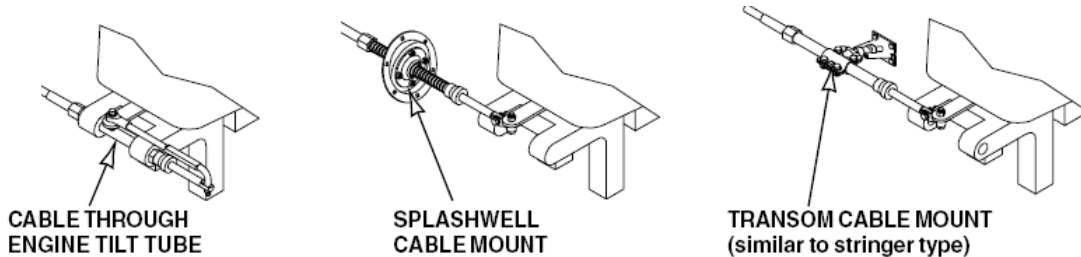


## COMMON REASONS WHY STEERING CABLES ARE STIFF

There are several reasons that could be the cause of the issue.

The most common being that the steering cables are not slid out of the support tube (at the engine) as far as they can go, and cleaned off and greased with a WATER PROOF MARINE LITHIUM GREASE. This should be done at least once a year on a freshwater only boat, and twice a year on saltwater boats. See below for more details.



The only maintenance on a cable steering system is back at the engine or rudder.

- Remove the link arm from the very end of the steering cable's telescoping rod.
- Undo the large nut at the end of the plastic jacket of the steering cable.
- Pull the plastic jacket of the cable towards the side of the boat exposing the 5/8 telescoping rod.
- Clean off the rod, clean out the support tube and re-grease it with a WATER PROOF MARINE LITHIUM GREASE.
- Reassemble the system as it was originally set up. Make sure to screw the nut on the plastic jacket down until it bottoms out. It is a lock nut and will feel tight before bottoming out.

The second most common reason as to why steering cables are stiff is that the support tubes (at the engine) have a grease fitting on them, and grease gets pumped into it. This forces grease up the cable jacket and causes a hydraulic lock which will make the steering very difficult to turn. To solve this, you must replace the cable.

The third reason is that the telescoping rod at the engine end of the cable has been bent by somebody pulling themselves out of the water with it or possibly stepping on it.

The fourth reason could be that the cable has too tight of a bend in it. There must be a minimum bend radius of 8 inches. For example, the cable has to be able to go around the outside of a circle that measures 16 inches across. Big sweeping bends are needed.

The fifth reason is that the cable is tie-wrapped too tightly, and the cable cannot flex.