

Basic Boating Checklist

BEFORE LEAVING STORAGE AREA WITH BOAT ALWAYS VERIFY THE MOTOR STARTS AND RUNS.
THIS WILL ALSO INSURE YOU HAVE THE BOAT KEYS.



TRAILERING

- ☐ Connect coupler to ball – BE SURE LATCH IS UNDER BALL not on top of it and LATCH IS LOCKED & BOLTED SECURELY.
- ☐ Connect safety chains and cross below ball.
- ☐ Connect wiring for lights.
- ☐ If your trailer has brakes – be sure to connect safety cable to vehicle.
- ☐ Crank up tongue jack.
- ☐ Check winch is tight and locked.
- ☐ Check tire pressure and condition.
- ☐ Check trailer lights before each trip.
- ☐ Check tie down straps.

FUELING

- ☐ Shut engine off prior to fueling.
- ☐ Remove all passengers from boat.
- ☐ Do not smoke!
- ☐ Turn off electronics.
- ☐ Be certain you are putting fuel in fuel tank, not water tank or rod holder!

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- ☐ Always fuel a new boat slowly.

LAUNCHING

PRIOR TO LAUNCH

- ☐ Always check for favorable weather prior to boating.
- ☐ Check that DRAIN PLUG IS INSTALLED in bottom of boat.
- ☐ Leave trailer completely connected to car prior to backing down boat ramp.
- ☐ Disconnect trailer lights.
- ☐ Remove any trailer to boat tie downs.
- ☐ Verify ample safety equipment is aboard.

WHEN LAUNCHING

- ☐ Choose "Leeward" side of ramp. (side where wind is blowing away from dock)
- ☐ Tie bow and stern lines to boat for handler.
- ☐ Back trailer down ramp until stern of boat begins to float.
- ☐ Put vehicle in PARK and engage PARK BRAKE.
- ☐ Walk on dock to boat – be careful, ramps and docks can be slippery.
- ☐ Small Boats – Release winch from inside boat. Be CAREFUL of handle spinning out of control!
- ☐ Float boat off trailer and tie to dock.
- ☐ Large boats – Have handler release winch and guide boat as you float boat off trailer.
- ☐ Slowly drive vehicle forward and park. LOCK vehicle and trailer coupler to prevent theft.

STARTING ENGINE

- ☐ Large Boats – Open sea cocks, except overboard waste, close sea cocks if leaving boat unattended.
- ☐ Visually inspect engine and bilge for leaks, loose items, etc.
- ☐ Close engine/bilge hatch and run blower for 5 minutes prior to starting.
- ☐ Lower engine or out drive.
- ☐ Two stroke owners check oil in tank.
- ☐ Verify safety lanyard in proper position
- ☐ Check that shifter is in neutral and throttle in correct position.
- ☐ Start engine. (see owner's manual)

- ☐ Check for oil pressure, volts and engine temperature.

UNDERWAY

- ☐ Keep a copy of sales agreement on board until vessel registrations are completed.
- ☐ Children under 6 years of age must wear a USCG approve PFD while underway in vessels under 26 feet.
- ☐ 3 miles offshore or at the edge of the gulf stream, children 13 and under must wear a USCG approve PFD on all recreational vessels unless except when below deck.
- ☐ Anyone being towed behind a vessel must wear a USCG approved PFD.
- ☐ Once underway, tidy up loose lines and gear.
- ☐ Operate in shallow water with drive tilted up.
- ☐ When water depth in unknown proceed slowly and with caution.
- ☐ Observe all speed and rule signs.
- ☐ Inform crew of speed and direction changes prior to making them.
- ☐ Always look behind and to the sides prior to direction or speed changes.
- ☐ The person at the helm is responsible for all passengers and wake made by the vessel.
- ☐ Stow safety equipment in an easily accessible location.
- ☐ Use Navigation Lights 30 minutes before sunset and after sunrise.
- ☐ Follow manufacturer's instructions.
- ☐ On the Indian River, Red Squares are on the mainland side, Green Squares are on the ocean side and all markers are numbered.
- ☐ Stay to the right of the channel when underway – never anchor in a channel.
- ☐ Sailboats have the right of way while under sail only.
- ☐ Always check the weather and leave a float plan behind.

RETRIEVING BOAT

- ☐ Tie bow and stern lines for handler – Hang fenders if necessary.
- ☐ Have handler stand on dock and steady boat.
- ☐ Back trailer down ramp slowly – roll vehicle window down so you can hear instructions.
- ☐ Submerge the trailer completely.
- ☐ Float or drive boat on trailer.
- ☐ Attach winch strap and tighten until boat touches winch stop / roller.
- ☐ SLOWLY but steadily pull boat up the ramp stopping only if boat is not on trailer properly.
- ☐ Continue to parking area so ramp area stays clear.

- ☐ Remove boat drain plug.
- ☐ Stow gear, cushions, tables etc. so they CAN NOT FLY OUT of boat while trailering.
- ☐ FOLD DOWN & SECURE BIMINI TOP if trailering speed exceeds 30 MPH.
- ☐ Install trailer to boat tie downs.

CLEANING BOAT AND TRAILER

- ☐ Flush engine per owner's manual instructions.
- ☐ Remove electronics if not inside cabin.
- ☐ Remove personal items, food and gear.
- ☐ Stowe any gear remaining on boat.
- ☐ Wash down boat, motor and trailer with biodegradable boat soap and fresh water.
- ☐ Allow to air dry before covering boat.
- ☐ Treat vinyl with dressing to promote long life.
- ☐ Store under cover – be sure air circulates underneath.

SUGGESTED BASIC EQUIPMENT FOR YOUR BOAT

- ☐ Appropriate safety gear – PFD's, flares, horn, fire extinguisher, EPIRB etc.
- ☐ VHF Radio and CELL phone
- ☐ Inexpensive Binoculars
- ☐ Charts and maps
- ☐ Boat hook
- ☐ Fenders (2 to 4)
- ☐ Extra lines (dock and anchor)
- ☐ Extra hull plug.
- ☐ Extra set of keys.
- ☐ Spare tire and bearing set for trailer.
- ☐ Engine oil
- ☐ Tool Kit
- ☐ Flash light
- ☐ Duct tape
- ☐ Boat brush
- ☐ Trailer coupler lock

☐ Boat cover

☐ Sun screen

SPARE PARTS LIST

☐ Alternator Belt (pre-installed)

☐ Spark plugs

☐ Engine oil

☐ Gear lube

☐ Water pump kit (if vacationing)

☐ Spare prop and hardware

☐ Spare drain plug

☐ Spare tire for trailer

☐ Bearing / hub set

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