Safe Boating Checklist



Pre-Departure

- [ ] 1. Check weather report and tides/currents
- [ ] 2. File a float plan with someone you know. Tell them where you're going and when you intend to return (and what to do if you don't).
- [ ] 3Identify non-swimmers - Supply non-swimmers with life jackets that fit and that they will wear while on the water
- [ ] 4. Identify second-in-command in case of skipper's incapacitation
- [ ] 5. Acquaint crew with the location and operation of Coast Guard required safety items if fitted: I- Life jackets—should be readily accessible, II- Lifesling or throwable flotation—should be immediately accessible, III- Horn or sound-producing device as required, IV- Fire extinguishers: Acquaint crew with operation: Pull the pin, Aim the fire extinguisher, Squeeze the two handles together, Sweep across the base of flames (PASS), V- Flares or other Visual Distress Signals, VI- Check operation of Navigation Lights
- [ ] 6. Identify incremental recommended gear if fitted: I-VHF Radio: Turn on and demonstrate how to select Channel 16, II- Ensure at least one other person knows how to transmit a Mayday Ensure that one anchor and rode is ready for immediate use, III- Turn on GPS, IV- Length of nylon line for a towline, perhaps 75' x 1/2"
- [ ] 7. Demonstrate engine shutdown technique
- [ ] 8. Check bilges and pump dry if water is present
- [ ] 9. Before engine is started - I- If gasoline inboard, run blower for at least four minutes, II- Check lubricating oil, III- Check fuel level, IV- Make sure buzzers sound on engine panel
- [ ] 10. Once engine is started - I- Verify cooling water flow, II- Check for oil pressure,III- Attach kill switch lanyard if fitted
- [ ] 11. Disconnect shore power cable
- [ ] 12. Upon leaving the harbor, store a "go home" waypoint on the GPS

While on the water

- [ ] 1. Drink responsibly—especially if you are the skipper!
- [ ] 2. Be weather aware - I- Use the weather channels on your VHF radio, II- Watch for changes in wind speed and cloud formations
- [ ] 3. Know the location of the nearest harbor or protected anchorage
- [ ] 4. Monitor fuel consumption and remaining range - I- Use the “Three-Thirds Rule” (one-third outbound, one-third inbound, one-third reserve)
- [ ] 5. Monitor VHF radio Channel 16 for emergency traffic - I- Be prepared to lend assistance if you are the nearest vessel
- [ ] 6. Know the waters in which you are navigating - I- Refer to local charts, II- Stay within marked channels, III- Be conscious of tides and currents

When you return to the dock

- [ ] 1. Moor boat correctly with bow, stern, spring lines and fenders - I- Ensure snubbers (if so equipped) are in place, II- Ensure lines are protected from chafe
- [ ] 2. Pump holding tank. Add holding tank treatment
- [ ] 3. Always-on loads (automatic bilge pump, alarms, clocks) are on
- [ ] 4. Non-essential loads (running lights, VHF, stereo, etc.) are off
- [ ] 5. Shore power cable is connected and protected from chafe - I- Battery charger is on, II- Inverter may need to be turned off
- [ ] 6. Logbook has been filled out, signed, and dated
- [ ] 7. Close float plan by calling person whom you originally contacted.

Make and Share Free Checklists
checkli.com