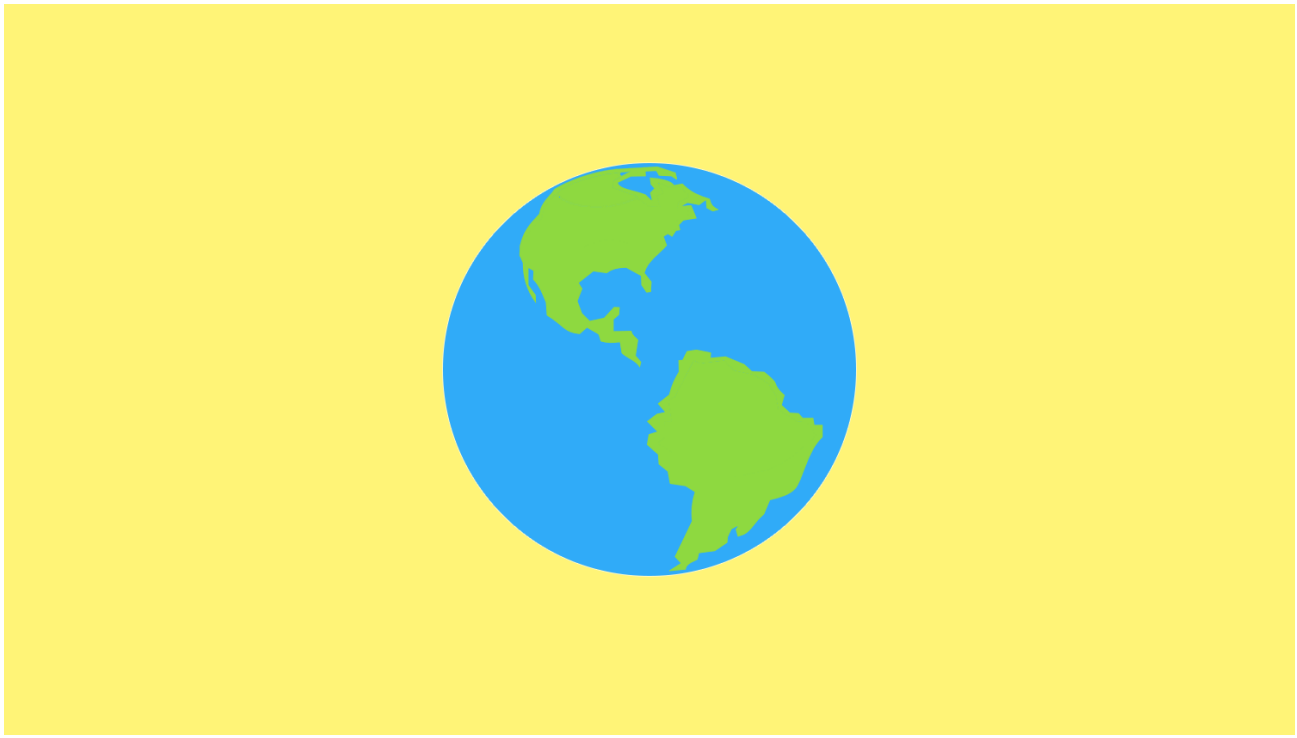
Check List for Stepping Aboard a Boat

Besides the obvious signs of wear and neglect upon stepping aboard a boat. Here are the things you should check or know about a boat before heading offshore. Please feel free to print the checklist and take it with you on your next passage.



What you should be able to put your hands on:

- [ ] Lifejackets & Safety Harnesses
- [ ] EBIRB (Know how to activate it)
- [ ] Ditch Bag (see "what to look for in an offshore boat")
- [ ] Life raft and how to deploy
- [ ] Emergency Steering (how to set up. Is there a special tool to get access to the steering quadrant? Where is it?)
- [ ] Flashlights (keep at least one on deck at night)
- [ ] Tools
- [ ] Fire extinguishers
- [ ] Duct Tape
- [ ] Manual Bilge Pump Handles
- [ ] Fog Horn
- [ ] First Aid Kit
- [ ] Spare Oil and Filters
- [ ] Extra lashings and tie downs
- [ ] Every Seacock (or at least know every location)

- [ ] Wooden Plugs & Hammer
- [ ] Engine Inlet and strainer: (Know how to clear the strainer)
- [ ] Check Engine Fluids (Oil/Transmission)
- [ ] How do the belts look?
- [ ] Check liquid in the batteries.
- [ ] Do you have spare filters and impellers?
- [ ] Spare Jerry Jugs of fuel

On Deck:

- [ ] A Knife
- [ ] Check Turnbuckles
- [ ] Check for chafe in furling return lines.
- [ ] Check all Halyards are clear and secure.
- [ ] How to launch the MOB
- [ ] Make sure the anchor is very secure, but know how to deploy it quickly in an emergency.
- [ ] Check Running Lights
- [ ] Check Compass Light
- [ ] (Do you have a backup light for the compass light?)
- [ ] Flashlight on deck at night.

What you should know how to do:

- [ ] Start (Stop) and operate the main engine
- [ ] Reef the sails
- [ ] Rig Jack lines
- [ ] Understand the Electrical Panel
- [ ] Operate the VHF or SSB in an emergency.
- [ ] Operate Bilge pumps (both electrical and Manual)
- [ ] Garbage Plan - What goes where (Besides an oil pollution placard many boats also require a garbage placard noting what can and what cannot be thrown overboard).
- [ ] Rig Preventer
- [ ] Release halyards

What to look out for:

- [ ] Each other
- [ ] The boom
- [ ] Tripping on deck (one hand for you and one for the boat).
- [ ] Don't block the helm when docking, underway in port or near busy channels
- [ ] Placing things like open drinks on the counter.
- [ ] Know not to turn the battery switch off with the engine is running.
- [ ] Don't be afraid to tell the helmsman about anything ahead (Lobster pots, floating logs) or coming up from behind (faster/bigger boats).
- [ ] When off watch make sure you get enough rest.
- [ ] Make sure to take your seasickness medicine if you are prone.
- [ ] Clean up after yourself in the head and galley.
- [ ] Make sure to turn off the propane safety switch after using the stove.
- [ ] If the boat policy is to keep the main water panel switch off when not in use, make sure it is off.

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