

Boater's Pre-Departure Checklist

Know your vessel. Before departure, always be sure your vessel is in good working condition and properly equipped for emergencies. Avoid inconvenience and potential danger by taking a few minutes to check the following:



Minimum Federal Required Equipment

- ☐ State Registration Documentation
- ☐ State Numbering Displayed
- ☐ Certificate of Documentation
- ☐ Lifejackets (PFDs) - one for each person
- ☐ Throwable PFD
- ☐ Visual Distress Signals
- ☐ Fire Extinguishers (fully charged)
- ☐ Proper Ventilation
- ☐ Backfire Flame Arrestor
- ☐ Sound Producing Device(s)
- ☐ Navigation lights
- ☐ Oil Pollution Placard
- ☐ Garbage Placard
- ☐ Marine Sanitation Device
- ☐ Navigation rules

☐ Any Additional State Requirements

Recommended Equipment

- ☐ VHF Marine Radio
- ☐ Anchor and Tackle
- ☐ Chart(s) of Area & Navigation Tools
- ☐ Magnetic Compass
- ☐ Fenders and Boat Hook
- ☐ Mooring Lines and Heaving line
- ☐ Manual Bilge Pump or Bailing Device
- ☐ Tool Kit
- ☐ Spare Parts (fuses, spark plugs, belts, etc)
- ☐ Spare Battery (fully charged)
- ☐ Spare Propeller
- ☐ Spare Propeller
- ☐ Alternate Propulsion (paddles/oar)
- ☐ Flashlight & Batteries
- ☐ Search Light
- ☐ First Aid Kit
- ☐ Sunscreen (SPF 30+)
- ☐ Mirror
- ☐ Food and Water
- ☐ Extra Clothing
- ☐ AM - FM Radio
- ☐ Cellular Phone
- ☐ Binoculars

Safety Checks and Tests

- ☐ Test Marine Radio (voice call)
- ☐ Test Navigation and Anchor Lights
- ☐ Test Steering (free movement)
- ☐ Test Tilt / Trim

- ☐ Test Bilge Pump
- ☐ Check for any excessive water in bilges
- ☐ Check Fuel System for any leaks
- ☐ Check Engine Fluids
- ☐ Ensure Boat Plug is properly installed
- ☐ Check Electrical System
- ☐ Check Galley / Heating Systems
- ☐ Check Gauges (i.e. batteries)
- ☐ Check Fuel Amount
- ☐ Ensure Anchor is ready for use
- ☐ Check load of vessel and secure gear from shifting
- ☐ Ensure passengers know Emergency Procedures and Equipment Location
- ☐ Everyone put on a Lifejacket to check for proper fitting.
- ☐ Check the Weather Forecast
- ☐ File a Float Plan with family or friend

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