

Boating Pre-Departure Checklist

Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs)	
	At least one approved device per passenger and a minimum of two extra on board.
	An additional throwable device is required if the vessel is more than 16 feet long.
	Direct all passengers and crew on the vessel to wear a PDF
Sound Producing Devices (Whistle)	
	Must have a horn capable of producing a four-second blast audible for at least 1/2 mile.
	If a portable air horn, have a spare can of air or an alternate device.
Lights and Shapes	
	All navigation lights as required.
	Instrumental lights working.
	If you intend to engage in an activity that requires a day shape, have the required shapes.
	Flashlight on-board.
Distress Signals	
	Accessible flares, day signals, etc., stored in a dry location.
	Carry signals at all times even if not required by the Coast Guard.
	Inform the crew and passengers of their location and their use.
Tools and Spares	
	Basic toolbox on-board.
	Spare paddles
	Box of spares aboard, e.g., fuel filter, light bulbs, head parts, through hull plugs, etc.
Ventilation	
	On any powered vessel or auxiliary powered sailboat, or vessels using LPG for cooking or heat, check that all interior spaces are well ventilated before departure.
	If fuel smell is detected before ventilating, run the blowers for several minutes before starting.
	If odor persists, stop and look for the source of the leak.
Fire Extinguishers	
	Accessible fire extinguisher.
	Check to be sure mounts are secure and functional before departure.
	Take the time to point out locations to passengers and crew.

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Fuel and Oil	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Are your fuel tanks topped-off?
<input type="checkbox"/>	Enough fuel to provide a reasonable margin of safety (1/3 out, 1/3 return, 1/3 reserve)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Check the engine oil and coolant level.
Bilges	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Check to be sure bilges are reasonably dry and that pumps are not running excessively.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Clean up any spilled oil or waste in bilges so as to prevent overboard discharge.
Battery Care	
<input type="checkbox"/>	If you have a dual charging system, is the selector switch in the proper position?
<input type="checkbox"/>	Is the power on to the entire vessel?
<input type="checkbox"/>	Spare batteries for accessories such as a handheld radio, flashlight, portable navigational aid
<input type="checkbox"/>	If they are rechargeable, are they charged?
Weather Forecast	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Did you check the weather forecast?
<input type="checkbox"/>	Radio on board to receive weather updates.
Docking and Anchoring	
<input type="checkbox"/>	At least one anchor set up and bent-on to your anchor line.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Two or three extra docklines in case of unusual conditions dockside.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Visually inspect the lines you use for chafe or wear.
<input type="checkbox"/>	At least two fenders on-board for docking or towing if required.
Documentation	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ship's papers, radio license, fishing permit, etc. on board.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Chart or charts for the area you intend to cruise in, regardless of your level of local knowledge.
Essentials	
<input type="checkbox"/>	First Aid Kit
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sunscreen, sunglasses.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Hat, sweater, raincoat, extra set of dry cloths.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Water, extra food, snacks.