



BOATER'S CHECKLIST

Know Your Vessel

MINIMUM FEDERAL REQUIRED EQUIPMENT

- State Registration (Certificate of Number)
- State Numbering Display
- Certificate of Documentation
- Life Jackets: One Per Each Person on Board
- Throwable Type IV Device
- Visual Distress Signals
- Fire Extinguisher (Fully Charged)
- Proper Ventilation
- Backfire Flame Control
- Sound Producing Device
- Navigation Lights
- Oil Pollution Placard
- Garbage Placard
- Marine Sanitation Device
- Copy of Navigation Rules (Inland Waters)
- Any Additional State Requirements

SAFETY CHECKS & TESTS

- Test VHF Marine Radio (Voice Call)
- Test Navigation and Anchor Lights
- Test Steering (Free Movement)
- Test Tilt/Trim
- Test Bilge Pump
- Check for Excessive Water in Bilges
- Check Fuel System for Leaks
- Check Engine Fluids
- Ensure Boat Plug is Properly Installed
- Check Electrical System
- Check Galley/Heating Elements
- Check Gauges (i.e., Battery)
- Check Fuel Amount
- Ensure Anchor is Ready for Use
- Check Load of Vessel and Secure Gear
- Ensure Passengers Know Emergency Procedures and Equipment Location
- Check that all Life Jackets Fit Properly
- Check the Weather Forecast
- File a Float Plan with Relative or Friend

RECOMMENDED EQUIPMENT & SUPPLIES

- VHF-FM Marine Radio
- EPIRB/PLB
- Anchor and Line
- Chart(s) of the Area and 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/Shear or Cotter Pins
- Extra Fuel and Oil
- Alternate Propulsion (Paddles/Oar)
- Flashlight and Batteries
- Search Light
- First Aid Kit
- Sunscreen (SPF 30+)
- Mirror
- Food and Water
- Extra Clothing/Foul Weather Gear
- AM-FM Radio
- Cellular Phone
- Binoculars

Before departure, always be sure your vessel is in good working order and properly equipped for emergencies. Avoid inconvenience and potential danger by taking a few minutes to review these checklists before every outing.

Source: US Coast Guard

Download: www.uscgboating.org