



BOATING SAFETY TIPS

Departure Checklist

Be Prepared for the Unexpected - Check This List Before Every Trip

Lifejackets - Wear Them!

- Carry a Canadian-approved lifejacket for everyone on board
- Make sure they are in good condition (check the zippers, buckles, fabric, seams, etc.)
- Check that they are properly sized to fit each person on board

Operator Competency - Are You Ready to Head Out on the Water?

- Take a boating safety course
- Keep your Pleasure Craft Operator Card or other proof of competency on board

Weather - Check and Monitor the Marine Weather Forecast

Sail Plan - File Your Plan Before Heading Out

- Tell a person you trust where you are going and when you will be back

Safety Equipment - Required by Law and Essential for Safety

- Make sure all equipment is on board, in good working order and easy to reach
- Carry a first aid kit, basic tools and spare parts

Charts, Compass and Local Hazards - Know Where You Are at All Times

- Make sure you are aware of all local hazards, water levels and tides

Fuel - Check Your Tank and Remember: 1/3 to go, 1/3 to return, 1/3 reserve

Boat Condition - Should Your Boat Leave the Dock?

- Check the hull for cracks or other damage
- Check the electrical, fuel, propulsion and cooling systems
- Make sure the throttle and steering work well
- Check the oil
- Check all hoses and lines for leaks or cracks and replace if necessary
- Make sure all clamps and belts are secure and in good shape
- Inspect, clean and replace spark plugs if necessary
- Check and change oil and water filters if needed
- Check the battery's charge
- Make sure the drainage plug is in place
- Carry spare plugs for all through hull fittings
- Make sure the load on your boat (gear and occupants) is well distributed
- Run the blowers for four minutes before starting the engine(s) - check for airflow

Safety Briefing - You Are Legally Responsible for Your Guests

- Show everyone where the safety equipment is located and how to use it
- Make sure the communication equipment works and everyone can use it

