



Boating Pre-departure Checklist

Personal and Environmental Planning:

- Check the local weather forecast.
- Review marine charts or maps of the area to determine and mark local hazards.
- Consider the seasonal changes of the area.
- Talk with local boaters concerning hazards especially if no marine charts are available.
- Complete a trip plan and leave it with a responsible individual.

Preparation:

- Inspect the craft, repair damage and tighten loose fittings.
- Review emergency procedures and practice skills.
- Review each passenger's responsibilities before boarding.
- Show everyone where the equipment is stored and ensure required equipment is easily accessible.

Equipment:

All required safety equipment is on board and is in good working condition.

- Have enough approved flotation devices of the correct size for everyone on board.
- Have the required and recommended safety equipment. This could include a first aid kit, repair kit, spare parts, necessary tools and survival rations.
- Have enough fuel for the trip. Follow the rule of thirds.
- Have a means of communication like a cellphone or VHF radio.
- Make sure everyone on board has the appropriate clothing for protection from the weather. All extra gear should be stored in waterproof bags.