

Boaters' Pre-Departure Checklist

Minimum Federal Required Equipment	Yes	No
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		

The following additional items are suggested depending on the size, location and use of your boat:

Recommended for Emergencies Yes No

- 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
- Extra Fuel & Oil
- 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	Yes	No
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