



READY TO GO SEAMANSHIP SERVICES
Boating Lessons / Captain For Hire / Marine Advisor
For Safer And Smarter Boating

Pre-Departure Checklist: Review before leaving the dock. Ensure all required equipment is on board, properly secured, and in serviceable condition

USCG Required Equipment

- ☐ Registration/documentation and proper display of numbers. Documents must be carried on board.
- ☐ Life jackets for every person on board: Right size and intended use. Must be "Readily Accessible."
- ☐ Type IV (Throwable) required for vessels $\geq 16'$. Must be "Immediately Accessible."
- ☐ Visual Distress Signals (VDS): either 3 days and 3 nights or a combination. Check expiration date.
- ☐ Engine Cut Off Switch (ECOS). Required for vessels $\leq 26'$. Must be attached to the operator.
- ☐ Fire Extinguisher in serviceable condition. Gage "Full", safety pin secured, not expired.
Vessels $\geq 26'$ - $\leq 40'$ must carry 2. Must be "Readily Accessible"
- ☐ Ventilation for engines with closed compartments. Check is in working conditions. Inspect hoses
- ☐ Back Fire Flame Arrestor - required for stern drives or inboard motors.
- ☐ Sound Producing Device (whistle, horn, siren, etc.) capable of a 4-second blast audible for $\frac{1}{2}$ mile.
- ☐ Navigation Lights: Must be displayed between sunset and sunrise and during reduced visibility.
- ☐ Oil Pollution Placard required for boats $\geq 26'$ with a machinery compartment.
- ☐ MARPOL Garbage Placard required for boats $\geq 26'$. Must be displayed in a conspicuous location.
- ☐ Navigation Rules COLREGS required to carry a copy for boats $> 39.4'$.

Not Required But Recommended to Carry Onboard

- ☐ Marine VHF Radio - Fixed or Handheld. Monitor Channel 16. Cellular is not reliable on the water.
- ☐ Dewatering Device Back Up (Manual pump, bucket, etc.)
- ☐ Anchor and rode (line and chain) are securely attached to the boat. Recommended ratio 7:1.
- ☐ Fenders: A minimum of 2 is recommended; 4 is ideal.
- ☐ Dock Lines: 2 for the bow, 2 for the stern, and 2 for spring lines.
- ☐ Boat Hook - Useful for docking and retrieving items from the water.
- ☐ First Aid Kit. Check for items that have expired
- ☐ EPIRB (Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon) or PLB (Personal Locator Beacon).
- ☐ Tool Box.

Always Check

- ☐ Weather & Tide Forecast for the area. Keep monitoring throughout the day. Check charts for the area.
- ☐ Under the deck: The drain plug is in place, the bilge pump is functional, the through-hull hoses are in good condition, and the battery is fully charged and secured.
- ☐ Enough fuel: $\frac{1}{3}$ Out, $\frac{1}{3}$ Return, $\frac{1}{3}$ Reserve.
- ☐ Engine Start: Check for proper water flow from the motor, oil pressure, and engine temperature.
- ☐ Steering and shift controls are working properly.
- ☐ Electronics: GPS, Compass, Sonar, Radar, EPIRB, etc.
- ☐ Radio Check: Recommended Channel is 9, NOT 16. Channel 16 is for distress, safety, and hailing.
- ☐ Proper clothing, head cover, sunscreen, plenty of water, and food.
- ☐ Marine Sanitation Device: If equipped, make sure there is no risk of accidental/illegal discharge.



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Safety Briefing: Review with passengers before leaving the dock.

Show it's location and demonstrate the proper use

- ☐ PFDs: One for each passenger on board, the right size and type. Must be "Readily accessible."
Must be worn while underway by children <6 yrs old on FL state waters and <13 yrs old on Federal waters
- ☐ Type IV - Must be immediately accessible.
- ☐ Fire extinguishers - They must be readily accessible.
- ☐ Visual Distress Signals (VDS)
- ☐ VHF Radio -Demonstrate how to make a "Mayday Call."
- ☐ First Aid Kit.
- ☐ Connect Safety Lanyard. Keep it attached to the operator when underway.
- ☐ For boats with engine compartments; **RUN THE BLOWERS FOR 4 MINUTES** before starting the engine.

Discuss the following safety tips

- ☐ No drinking for the operator; monitor passengers' alcohol consumption.
- ☐ Designate specific seating areas for passengers. No sitting on the bow, gunwale, or stern while underway.
- ☐ When moving around the boat, maintain three points of contact. Passengers must inform the operator before moving.
- ☐ The operator should always announce any changes in speed or direction.
- ☐ Encourage passengers to remain alert and help with lookout duties. If you see danger, speak up.
- ☐ Assign responsibilities such as handling lines, fenders, docking, and anchoring.
- ☐ Stay hydrated and apply sunscreen
- ☐ Always keep a close watch on children

Add your personal items here

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