



Equipment Checklist

BOAT LAUNCH PREPARATION CHECKLIST

- Register your vessel.** Obtain a current Washington title, registration, and registration decals as required. Carry your registration onboard when the boat is underway.
- Keep your vessel maintained.** Consult the manufacturer's maintenance and operation manual and follow all recommended servicing.
- Check for winter damage.** Examine the entire hull for damage, signs of corrosion and wear especially at joints, seams and thru-hulls fittings where age and winter ice can crack or loosen them.
- Check for leaks.** Use a garden hose to check for deck leaks at ports and hatches, check for any hoses that are too soft, loose or split from age of freezing. Inspect prop(s) for dings, pitting and distortion.
- Check the fuel system.** Look for signs of leaks such as discoloring around a fitting, cracks or other signs of stress. Sniff for raw gasoline fumes throughout the fuel system. Make arrangements to replace any line or fitting looking impaired.
- Be sure your battery has a full charge by having it tested.** Inspect for corrosion, clean and reconnect the battery cable or set the battery power selector switch to the start/on position.
- Check electronic gear.** Get fresh batteries for portable electronic gear, radios, handheld GPS and flashlights. Inspect connections on lights and the horn and other equipment wired in to the boat.
- Protect your boat** and carry at least two ample sized fenders on-board for docking. Inspect your mooring lines for damage. Replace lines and fenders when signs of wear are clearly apparent.
- Check the boat trailer.** Inspect trailer tires for wear and inflate properly. Check the trailer frame for damage and rust spots; inspect wheel bearings frequently and repack when necessary. Test the trailer's lights before towing. Be sure the trailer registration is current.
- Check the oil.** Be sure the oil level is at full and look for evidence of contamination by water such as creamy brown or gray engine or drive oil. A marine mechanic should find the source of the leak and make repairs before you start the engine.
- Check the exhaust system** to be sure there are no exhaust leaks. Exhaust noise and fumes can help locate any leaks. Have the exhaust system repaired before taking the boat out on the water.
- Clean the bilge.** Inspect bilge pump and float switch to ensure they're working properly.
- Install and tighten the drain plug.** When possible, test to be sure you have a water tight fit. Boaters should have a spare drain plug stored and available in a location convenient for urgent use.
- Check the condition of all required safety equipment** (see Required Equipment pdf)
- Get inspected.** Local law enforcement agencies, the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary and the U.S. Power Squadrons offer boaters a courtesy examination of all required safety equipment. Find the nearest vessel examiner or obtain additional information at: www.safetyseal.net
- Fill your fuel tank.** Have enough fuel to provide a margin of safety by planning fuel use with the three-thirds rule: 1/3 to go, 1/3 to return and 1/3 reserve

OPTIONAL EQUIPMENT...PLAN FOR THE UNEXPECTED

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Flashlight | <input type="checkbox"/> Spare Propeller(s) and lock nut |
| <input type="checkbox"/> First Aid Kit | <input type="checkbox"/> Copy of the Navigation Rules |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boarding Ladder | <input type="checkbox"/> Additional Life Jackets |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Basic Tool Kit | <input type="checkbox"/> Bailing Bucket |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Extra Line (Rope) | <input type="checkbox"/> VHF Marine Band Radio with NOAA Weather band |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Anchor with line | <input type="checkbox"/> Navigation equipment such as compass, charts and GPS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Spare parts and fluids - gasoline/oil | <input type="checkbox"/> Duct Tape or emergency patch kit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Paddle or oar for auxiliary power | <input type="checkbox"/> Cell Phone in waterproof case or bag |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Spare Bilge Plug(s) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rain gear – cold weather clothes | |

BOAT OPERATOR CHECKLIST

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Be sure everyone who will be operating the boat has their Boater Education Card. | <input type="checkbox"/> Check Weather Forecasts before leaving home & be aware of changing conditions. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Avoid dehydration by bring & drink plenty of non-alcoholic fluids. Water is perfect. | <input type="checkbox"/> Be aware of tides. Becoming stuck or stranded in a mud flat can be a serious safety hazard. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Carry the Adventures in Boating Washington Handbook. Ask your local law enforcement agency about local rules. | <input type="checkbox"/> Bring & use sun protection, sun screen, hat & sun glasses with full UV protection. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Notify others of your schedule by leaving a Float Plan with a responsible friend. Go to www.floatplancentral.org . | <input type="checkbox"/> Dress for the water temperature, not the air temperature. Assess the wind & wave conditions to decide if you are prepared for potential cold-water conditions. & take along extra clothing especially for children – they get cold faster than adults. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Be sure you are up-to-date on the boating laws & rules. | <input type="checkbox"/> Do not exceed the weight, number of passengers & horsepower limits for your boat. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Review the Navigation Charts for your trip to be sure they are current & bring them along for reference. When visiting waterways where no charts are available, obtain a local waterway map or fishing guide. Know your location at all times & the location of any hazards & boating facilities in your vicinity. | <input type="checkbox"/> Check the Capacity Plate & make a precise note of your boat's maximum load limits – |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Check Weather Forecasts before leaving home & be aware of changing conditions. | <input type="checkbox"/> Prepare your passenger to take the helm & where to find & operate any safety equipment you have aboard including the radio. |

