

Pre-departure Checklist

Safety

LIFE JACKETS

- Assign and fit each person on boat (and pets!) with a personal life jacket.
- Check emergency throwing devices in place and operational.
- Show all persons how to use the lifejackets and emergency devices.

EMERGENCY LOCATOR BEACONS

- Check your Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB) is working and everyone knows the location it is stored.
- If you have them, explain to crew about Personal Locator Beacons (PLB).

SOUND PRODUCING DEVICES

- Must have a horn capable of producing a four second blast audible for at least 1/2 mile.
- Ensure a whistle or audible device is attached to each lifejacket.

DISTRESS SIGNALS

- Check flares and emergency equipment (liferaft) are in working condition and stored in an easily accessible location.
- Brief the crew of their location and safety rules for proper usage.

FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

- Carry at least one fire extinguisher (or more if required by law) and make sure it is securely mounted, in working order, and accessible.
- Include location and instructions in safety briefing.

Navigation & Documentation

LIGHTS AND SHAPES

- Have and use all navigation lights as required by law.
- Make sure all instruments and instrument lights are working.
- Recreational boaters must have and use day shapes for certain activities.
- Have one or more torches and spare batteries.

WEATHER FORECAST

- Check the weather forecast.
- Have a working VHF radio on board to receive weather updates.

DOCUMENTATION

- Have all the ship's papers, your VHF radio license and fishing permits on board.
- Have the charts for the area you intend to cruise in, regardless of your level of local knowledge.
- Make a passage plan.
- Leave a float plan with at least one person on land so they know where to find you if needed.

Equipment

TOOLS AND SPARES

- Have a spares box with standard parts that are commonly required.
- Have a toolbox on board with general tools and specific ones you need to fit your spares.
- Ensure your first aid kit meets local requirements and is kept in date.

FUEL AND OIL

- Make sure you have adequate fuel - if not, then fill up.
- You should have enough fuel to ensure you reach home with some to spare.
- Check engine oil and coolant levels.

VENTILATION CHECKS

- If you use gas for cooking ensure it is switched off when not in use, or well ventilated when in use. Make sure the bottle is stored safely and correctly.
- If fuel odours are detected, run checks, shut down the engine, and look for the source of the leak.

BILGES

- Check the bilges are reasonably dry and working properly.
- Clean up any spilled oil or waste in bilges if necessary.

BATTERY CARE

- Make sure the power is on to the entire vessel and switches are in the correct positions.
- Have aboard spare batteries or chargers for accessories such as torches, GPS and handheld radios.

General

DOCKING AND ANCHORING PREPARATION

- Have your anchor set up and anchor line checked for wear.
- Carry spare lines for unusual docking situations.
- Visually inspect all docking and anchoring lines.
- Make sure your fenders are secured properly and not deflated.
- Ensure you have enough food and water on board for the duration of your trip.

Have a fun and safe trip!

