



Pre-Departure Checklist

Be Prepared to Deal with the Unexpected – Check this List

- Weather Forecast – Is it Safe to Head Out on the Water?**
 - check and monitor the marine forecast
- Sail Plan – File Your Plan Before Heading Out**
(check the *Safe Boating Guide* for a sample sail plan)
 - tell a responsible person where you are going and when you will be back
 - give them a description of your vessel and communication equipment (e.g. VHF radio)
- Charts, Compass and Local Hazards – Know Where You Are at all Times**
 - ensure you have current marine charts of appropriate scale for the area
 - be aware of local hazards, water levels and tides
- Vessel Condition – Should Your Boat Leave the Dock?**
 - hull and gear – make sure they are seaworthy, ready for wind and waves
 - engine – check battery, carry tools and spare parts (e.g. spark plugs)
 - fuel – fill your tank (1/3 to go, 1/3 to return, 1/3 reserve)
 - load – evenly distribute gear and occupants, do not overload
 - blowers – run for 4 minutes before starting the engine(s), check for airflow
- Safety Gear – It is Required by Law and Essential for Safety**
(check the *Safe Boating Guide* for the gear required for your vessel size)
 - lifejackets/PFDs
 - floating heaving line
 - paddles and/or anchor
 - fire extinguisher(s)
 - manual bilge pump and/or bailer
 - flares and/or flashlight
 - pealess whistle and/or horn
 - navigation lights
- Safety Briefing – You Are Legally Responsible for Guests/Crew**
 - indicate location and purpose of safety gear
 - familiarize guests/crew with vessel layout and operation
 - describe proper use of communication equipment
- Lifejackets/Personal Flotation Devices – Wear Them!**
 - carry a Canadian approved lifejacket or PFD for everyone on board
 - make sure they are in good condition (e.g. zippers, buckles, fabric, seams)
 - check that they are properly sized to fit each person