



PRE-DEPARTURE CHECKLIST

PERSONAL FLOATATION DEVICES (PFDs)

- ☐ Have onboard one PFD per passenger, minimum of two
- ☐ Have onboard a throwable device (for vessels larger than 16 ft.)
- ☐ Discuss proper use/location of PFDs

SOUND PRODUCING DEVICES

- ☐ Have onboard a horn that can emit a four-second blast audible for 1/2 mile
- ☐ Bring a spare can of air or an alternate device
- ☐ Attach a whistle to each PFD

LIGHTS & SHAPES

- ☐ Test navigation lights
- ☐ Check instrument lights
- ☐ Be sure to use day-shapes (mast-head signals) if your boating activities require day-shapes
- ☐ Bring a flashlight and spare batteries

DISTRESS SIGNALS

- ☐ Ensure that flares, day signals, etc., are accessible and stored in a dry location
- ☐ Discuss location, proper use and safety rules

TOOLS & SPARES

- ☐ Be sure to have a basic toolbox with boat-appropriate tools
- ☐ Be sure to bring a spare fuel filter, light bulbs, head parts, through-hull plugs, etc.

FUEL & OIL

- ☐ Check fuel levels
- ☐ Check the engine oil and coolant levels

FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

- ☐ Make sure you have a fully charged, accessible fire extinguisher(s) as specified in Coast Guard rules
- ☐ Ensure mounts are secure and functional
- ☐ Discuss location with passengers and crew

VENTILATION

- ☐ On any powered vessel or vessels using LPG, check that interior spaces are well ventilated
- ☐ If you smell fuel before ventilating, run blowers for several minutes and re-check before starting
- ☐ If odors persist, shut down the engine and look for the source of the leak

BILGES

- ☐ Ensure bilges are reasonably dry and pumps are not running excessively
- ☐ Clean any spilled oil or waste in bilges to prevent overboard discharge

WEATHER FORECAST

- ☐ Check the weather forecast before departure
- ☐ Have portable radio onboard for weather updates

BATTERY CARE

- ☐ For dual charging systems, check that the selector switch is in the proper position
- ☐ Ensure power is on to the entire vessel
- ☐ Bring spare batteries for handheld radio, flashlight, portable navigational aid, etc.
- ☐ Ensure rechargeable batteries are charged

DOCKING & ANCHORING TIPS

- ☐ Be sure to have one anchor set up and bent-on the anchor line
- ☐ Bring two or three extra dock lines
- ☐ Visually inspect lines for chafe or wear
- ☐ Bring fenders (minimum 2) for docking or towing

RULES & DOCUMENTATION

- ☐ Bring ship's papers, radio license, fishing permit, etc.
- ☐ Bring chart(s) for the area you intend to cruise