

Boating Safety

1. Check the weather

Always check local weather conditions the day before and on the day of departure.

2. Use a Boating Checklist

Boating safety means being prepared for any possibility on the water.

Things to include in your checklist:

- Check the tides and weather.
- Is your boat registration current.
- Is all required safety equipment onboard and in good condition.
- Have you planned enough fuel for the trip, plus adequate reserve.
- Have you checked the boat and motor for defects and service requirements.
- Conduct a safety briefing for your passengers on where the safety equipment is stowed and how to use it.

3. Common Sense

One of the most important parts of boating safety is to use common sense.

This means operating your vessel at a safe speed, be alert, steer clear of large vessels that can be restricted in their ability to maneuver, know your local buoys and other navigational aids.

4. Teach Others

Make sure more than one person on board is familiar with all aspects of your boats safe operation.

If you are incapacitated, it's important someone else can safely operate the boat to get everyone back to shore.

5. Have a Boating Plan

Always be sure to let someone know of your boating plan and include the following information:

Your phone number, number of passengers, boat type and description, type of communication equipment onboard and your trip itinerary including expected latest return time.

6. Know how to don a lifejacket.

Fit everyone onboard with a lifejacket prior to departure and make sure all children and non swimmers wear theirs.

7. Don't Drink & Ride

One third of all boating fatalities involve alcohol. The blood alcohol limit on the water is the same as on the roads

8. Learn to swim

If you're going to be in and around the water, proper boating safety means knowing how to swim.

9. Take a Boating Course

All skippers must hold a Recreational Skippers Ticket as a minimum requirement. Take a refresher course or additional training to improve you boating skills.

10. Carry all the correct Safety Equipment

Carry the correct safety equipment required for your vessel & area of operation.

11. Children's Safety

Buy a good quality lifejacket with a collar that turns a child face-up in the water. It should have strong waist and crotch straps, a handle on the collar, a whistle, and preferably be a bright colour for good visibility. It is recommended children wear their life vest at all times when in the open areas of a boat. Children must also be kept within the vessel and should never sit with their legs dangling over the sides of a powerboat that is underway.

12. Carry a Marine Radio

A distress call on a Marine Radio can be heard by many people instantly, getting help to you quickly. It is the best piece of safety equipment you can have onboard.