

BOATING SAFETY TIPS



Always review basic safety rules with your passengers before departure.

BE WEATHER-WISE

- Check local weather conditions before departure
 - Play it safe and get off the water if you notice darkening clouds, rough, changing winds or sudden temperature drops

FOLLOW A PRE-DEPARTURE CHECKLIST

- Ensure you'll be ready for any on-water emergency
 - Boating safety rules
 - Proper equipment

USE COMMON SENSE

- Operate at a safe speed, especially on crowded waters
- Be alert
- Steer clear of large vessels
- Pay attention to buoys and other navigational aids

DESIGNATE AN ASSISTANT SKIPPER

- Ensure another person on board can take the helm and return to shore should you become incapacitated

DEVELOP A FLOAT PLAN

- Always let someone on shore know your boating plans. Include:
 - Name, address, and phone number of trip leader and passengers
 - Boat type and registration
 - Trip itinerary
 - Type of communication and signal equipment on board

LEARN TO SWIM

- Check with local pools, or organizations such as the YMCA and American Red Cross for lessons

WEAR LIFEJACKETS

- Fit and assign a lifejacket to each passenger prior to launch

TAKE A BOATING COURSE

- Boating education requirements vary by state; regardless of your state's regulations, it's smart to be educated

SCHEDULE A FREE VESSEL SAFETY CHECK

- The U.S. Coast Guard and U.S. Power Squadrons offer free vessel safety checks to verify presence and condition of safety equipment, check out your boat and make safety recommendations. Find an examiner: <http://www.safetysseal.net/GetVSC/>

SAFETY RESOURCES

- **Boat-ed.com:** Official boating safety courses and online tests for your boat license
- **US Power Squadrons (usps.org) and Coast Guard Auxiliaries (cgaux.org):** Free vessel safety checks, boater education and safe boating tips
- **Boater101.com:** Water and boating safety instruction

Content courtesy of **BoatSafe.com**