



# BOATING BASICS

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PRESENTED BY



# DIGITAL GUIDEBOOK







# FIRST-AID CHECKLIST

Use this list to get your first-aid kit started. Then add additional items as recommended by local boating officials.

Adhesive tape

Alcohol wipes

Antihistamines

Antiseptic spray and ointment

Bulb syringe

Burn cream

Disposable gloves

Elastic wrap bandages

Epinephrine injection pen

Eyewash

Foil blanket

Gauze pads

Instant cold compress

Motion sickness meds

Multi-tool with knife

Oral thermometer

Pain medication

Scissors

Splints in assorted sizes

Sterile eye dressings

Super glue

Supply of clean water

Tweezers

Variety of bandages



*Tip: Be sure to check your first-aid supplies regularly and replace expired items.*

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# ELECTRONICS GUIDE

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Most communication on the water takes place on the VHF radio. This allows you to communicate instantly with other boats in the area, with marinas and bridges, and with the United States Coast Guard.

When not in use, keep the VHF tuned to Channel 16. This is where warnings, emergencies and distress calls will be announced.

## VHF CHANNELS AND THEIR INTENDED USE

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- 16: Emergency, Distress, Mayday, U.S. Coast Guard
- 9: Marinas, Restaurants, Gas Docks (Bridges in Florida)
- 68, 69, 71, 72, 78: Recreational
- 24-28, 84-87: Marine Telephone Operator
- 13: Locks, Canals, Bridges, Pilots (All Channel 9 In Florida)
- 70: Digital Selective Calling (No Voice, Transfers Information Digitally)

## NOAA WEATHER RADIO [NWR] FREQUENCIES

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- 162.400 Mhz
- 162.425 Mhz
- 162.450 Mhz
- 162.475 Mhz
- 162.500 Mhz
- 162.525 Mhz
- 162.550 Mhz



*Tip: If using a battery-powered radio, be sure to charge your device and/or carry spare batteries..*

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# SAFETY CHECKLIST

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Safety should be built into your boating plans. The goal is to keep everyone safe and maximize the time you get on the water.

Some safety measures and tools are required by law, while others should be required by your own standards. Local regulations will vary between states and may also vary from U.S. Coast Guard regulations. So, it's important you check all requirements for the waterways you use.

- Anchor
- Daytime/nighttime flares
- EPIRB
- Extra docklines
- Extra water and food
- Fenders
- First-aid kit
- Fire extinguisher
- GPS
- Licenses & registrations
- Life jackets for all
- Navigation lights
- Spare fuel filter
- Spare light bulbs
- Spare marine battery
- Stop switch and cord
- Sun protection
- Throwable PFD
- VHF radio
- Whistle and horn



*Tip: At the start of every trip, test your engine cutoff switch to make sure it's functional.*

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# RAMP CHECKLIST

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The goal at boat ramps is to be thorough, yet quick. Load and secure your rods, tackle, coolers and supplies in the boat before you leave home.

When you pull up to the staging area, follow these steps.

- Insert drain plug
- Remove transom straps
- Remove outboard support bracket or sterndrive trawling clips
- Power on the batteries
- Vent the engine compartment (if applicable)
- Ready your docklines
- Engaged 4WD (if equipped)



*Tip: Keep your winch strap and safety chain attached until your boat is backed into the water.*

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# TOWING CHECKLIST

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## ATTACHING THE TRAILER

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- Secure coupler on hitch ball
- Press the latch down
- Lock the latch
- Raise the jack
- Attach safety chains
- Plug in lights and check they're working

## TIRES AND HUBS

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- Check pressure, every time
- Fill to pressure
- Check for sufficient tread
- Check hubs after every haul

## SECURING THE BOAT

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- Tighten and lock winch strap
- Hook safety chain to bow eye
- Secure transom tie-downs
- Secure transom support bracket

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