

## Pre-Departure Checklist

Be Prepared for the Unexpected — Check This List Before Every Trip

### Lifejackets — Wear Them!

- Carry a Canadian-approved lifejacket for everyone on board.
- Make sure the lifejackets are in good condition (check the zippers, buckles, fabric, seams, etc.).
- Check that they are properly sized to fit each person on board.

### Operator Competency — Are You Ready to Head out on the Water?

- Take a boating safety course.
- Keep your Pleasure Craft Operator Card or other proof of competency on board.

### Weather — Check and Monitor the Marine Weather Forecast

### Sail Plan — File Your Plan Before Heading Out

- See page 74 of this guide for a sample sail plan.
- Tell a person you trust where you are going and when you will be back.

### Safety Equipment — Required by Law and Essential for Safety

- See page 22 of this guide for the equipment required for your boat.
- Make sure all equipment is on board, in good working order and easy to reach.
- Carry a first aid kit, basic tools and spare parts.

### Charts, Compass and Local Hazards — Know Where You Are at All Times

- Make sure you are aware of all local hazards, water levels and tides.

### Fuel — Check Your Tank and Remember: 1/3 to go, 1/3 to return, 1/3 reserve

### Boat Condition — Should Your Boat Leave the Dock?

- Check the hull for cracks or other damage.
- Check the electrical, fuel, propulsion and cooling systems.
- Make sure the throttle and steering work well.
- Check the oil.
- Check all hoses and lines for leaks or cracks and replace if necessary.
- Make sure all clamps and belts are secure and in good shape.
- Inspect, clean and replace spark plugs if necessary.
- Check and change oil and water filters if needed.
- Check the battery's charge.
- Make sure the drainage plug is in place.
- Carry spare plugs for all through hull fittings.
- Make sure the load on your boat (gear and occupants) is well distributed.
- Run the blowers for four minutes before starting the engine(s) — check for airflow.

### Safety Briefing — You Are Legally Responsible for Your Guests

- Show everyone where the safety equipment is located and how to use it.
- Make sure the communication equipment works and that everyone can use it.

Extracted from, Transport Canada, Office of Boating Safety, [Safe Boating Guide](#), TP 511E, January, 2011, page 20