

Boating Safety Checklists

Required by Law:

- Approved wearable flotation device for each person readily accessible
- Additional throwable flotation device on boats over 16 feet
- Persons 12 and under must wear a personal flotation device while underway
- Fire extinguisher if fuel tank or engine is enclosed
- Running lights after sunset or during restricted visibility
- State registration card on board
- Registration number and validation sticker displayed
- Do not operate a boat under the influence of drugs or alcohol
- Observe navigation rules
- Do not overload boat
- Sound signaling device

Other Items:

- Do not occupy ramp until boat is ready to launch
- Notify others of your schedule
- Obtain weather forecasts
- Navigation charts
- Bail bucket
- Anchor and line
- Paddle
- Secure boat to trailer after loading
- Trailer lights
- Reduce speed at night
- Check for gasoline fumes
- Motor kill switch
- 170 degree wide-angle rear view mirror

Wear Your Personal Flotation Device

80% of drowning victims in boating accidents were not wearing a personal flotation device.

Personal Watercraft Operation

You Must:

- Wear a personal flotation device (life jacket). Type I, II, or III. Inflatables cannot be used.
- Be at least 12 years old unless an adult is on board who can take immediate control of the boat.
- If towing skiers, surfboards, or other devices, be equipped with the appropriate mirrors

You May Not:

- Jump the immediate wake (within 100 feet) of another vessel
- Weave through congested vessel traffic
- Ride close to ramps, docks, or the shore
- Operate a personal watercraft between sunset and sunrise
- Operate a personal watercraft if under the age of 12 unless an adult is on board who can take immediate control of the boat
- Wear inflatable personal flotation devices

Protect Your Sport:

- Persons who allow an underage operator to use a personal watercraft may be prosecuted in addition to, or in lieu of, the operator
- Jumping the wake within 100 feet of another vessel, weaving through congested vessel traffic, and riding close to ramps, docks, or the shore is considered reckless operation
- Respect others

Infants - Toddlers - Boats

Water Safety

In most cases, boating is a family sport and as such, it is important to do all that is necessary to ensure your family's safety.

Teach Your Children Well

- Children should wear life jackets at all times when on boats or near bodies of water.
- Children come in many sizes and shapes - and personal flotation devices (PFD's) do too.
- To work right, a personal flotation device must fit snugly on a child. Check the label on the life jacket for proper weight range to match your child's weight.
- To check for a good fit, pick the child up by the shoulders of the PFD. If the PFD fits right, the child's chin and ears will not slip through.
- It is recommended that a child's device be tested in the water immediately after purchase.
- Teach your child to relax in the water while wearing a PFD. PFD's work best when the user is relaxed.
- Life jackets with a crotch strap to keep the device from riding up past the child's chin and ears are recommended.

The Nature of Things

- Children tend to panic when they fall into the water suddenly.
- They move their arms and legs violently and try to "climb out" of the water suddenly, making it hard to float safely in a personal flotation device.
- A proper fitting life jacket will keep a child afloat, but may not keep a struggling child face-up.

Common Sense

- PFD's are not babysitters. Adult supervision is recommended at all times when children are on boats or around water.
- Blow up water wings, toys and rafts should never be substituted for personal flotation devices.

Lifelong Enjoyable Experience

- Orient your infant or toddler to water early in life. It builds respect and confidence around water.
- Establish specific rules from the start with children. For example, life jackets worn at all times, remain seated while the boat is underway. The boat operator should always make sure everyone, especially infants and toddlers are seated and holding on before taking off.
- Teach parts of the boat, types of boats, and proper safety equipment to children at as early age as possible.

Infants and Toddlers Personal Flotation Devices for all Sizes

Infant/Toddler Type II



Infant Less Than 30 pounds. Approximately: Newborn to 2 years old.
Chest size: 16"-20" circumference.
Crotch strap to prevent riding up.

Small Child Type II



Child 30 - 50 pounds.
Approximately: 2 to 5 years old.
Chest size: 20"-23" - 23"-25" circumference.
Crotch strap to prevent riding up.

Medium Child Type III



Child 30 - 50 pounds.
Approximately: 4 to 8 years old.
Chest size: 21"-25" circumference.
Crotch strap to prevent riding up.

Youth Type III



Child 50 - 90 pounds.
Approximately 6 to 12 years old.
Chest size: 26"-29" circumference.

- The best choice for the smallest children and non swimmers are Type II's with crotch straps.