



# 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 they 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**
  - Tell a person you trust where you are going and when you will be back.
- Safety Equipment – Required by Law and Essential for Safety**
  - 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 everyone can use it.

