

# pre-departure checklist

## VESSEL SAFETY EQUIPMENT

- Have onboard a buoyant heaving line at least 15m long
- One manual propelling device
- One magnetic compass
- One radar reflector

## PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICES (PFDs)

- Have onboard one PFD per passenger, minimum of two
- Make sure that PFDs are in good condition and properly sized to fit each person on board.
- Discuss proper use/location of PFDs

## SOUND SIGNALLING DEVICES

- Have onboard a sound signalling device
- Bring a spare can of air or an alternate device
- Attach a whistle to each PFD

## LIGHTS

- Test navigation lights
- Check instrument lights
- Bring a watertight flashlight and spare batteries

## DISTRESS SIGNALS

- Ensure that flares, day signals, etc., are accessible and stored in a dry location
- Discuss location, proper use and safety rules

## TOOLS & SPARES

- Be sure to have a basic toolbox with boat-appropriate tools
- Be sure to bring a spare fuel filter, light bulbs, head parts, through-hull plugs, etc.

## FUEL & OIL

- Check fuel levels
- Check the engine oil and coolant levels

## FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

- Make sure you have a fully charged, accessible fire extinguisher(s) as specified by Transport Canada
- Ensure mounts are secure and functional
- Discuss location with passengers and crew

## VENTILATION

- On any powered vessel or vessels using LPG, check that interior spaces are well ventilated
- If you smell fuel before ventilating, run blowers for several minutes and re-check before starting
- If odours persist, shut down the engine and look for the source of the leak

## BILGES

- Ensure bilges are reasonably dry and pumps are not running excessively
- Clean any spilled oil or waste in bilges to prevent overboard discharge
- One bailer or manual bilge pump

## WEATHER FORECAST

- Check the weather forecast before departure
- Have portable radio onboard for weather updates

## BATTERY CARE

- For dual charging systems, check that the selector switch is in the proper position
- Ensure power is on to the entire vessel
- Bring spare batteries for handheld radio, flashlight, portable navigational aid, etc.
- Ensure rechargeable batteries are charged

## DOCKING & ANCHORING TIPS

- Be sure to have one anchor set up and bent-on the anchor line
- Bring two or three extra dock lines
- Visually inspect lines for chafe or wear
- Bring fenders (minimum 2) for docking or towing

## RULES & DOCUMENTATION

- Make sure you have your Pleasure Craft Operator Card on board (not a photocopy)
- Bring ship's papers, radio license, fishing permit, etc.
- Bring chart(s) for the area you intend to cruise

Disclaimer: Boating laws change from time to time, so be sure to check the Office of Boating Safety website for the latest required equipment by boat type and size. Content provided by BoatSafe.com