

PREPARE FOR A SAFE BOATING SEASON

Before You Launch Your Boat, Check This and That:

- Inspect and lubricate seacocks.
- Inspect hoses and hose clamps and replace as needed.
- Replace deteriorated zincs.
- Inspect props for dings, pitting, and distortion: make sure cotter pins are secure; grip the prop and move the shaft to determine if the cutlass bearing needs to be replaced.
- Check to make sure the rudderstock hasn't been bent.
- Inspect the hull for blisters, distortions, and stress cracks.
- Make sure the engine intake sea strainer is free of corrosion and operating properly.
- Check the engine shaft and rudder stuffing boxes for looseness.
- Use a hose to check for deck leaks at ports and hatches.
- If equipped, ensure that the stern drain plug is installed.

For Outboard Engines

- Inspect rubber outdrive bellows for cracked, dried, and/or deteriorated spots.
- Check power steering and power trim oil levels.
- Inspect the outer jacket of control cables for cracks and swelling.

Engines and fuel systems

- Inspect fuel lines, including fill and vent hoses, for brittleness or softness or cracking.
- Inspect fuel tanks, fuel pumps, and filters for leaks.
- Inspect cooling hoses and fittings for stiffness, rot, leaks, and/or cracking.
- Remove and inspect the exhaust manifold for corrosion every few years.
- Clean and tighten battery cable connections, especially both ends of battery cables.
- Inspect the bilge blower hose for leaks.

Sailboat Rigging

- Inspect fittings for cracks and rust.
- Inspect wire halyards and running backstays for fishhooks and rust.
- Remove tape on turnbuckles and lubricate threads, preferably with Teflon.
- Rewalk through-deck chainplates as needed.

Trailers

- Check air pressure; inspect tire threads for cracks or lack of thread, and replace as necessary—don't forget the spare.
- Inspect bearings and repack as necessary.
- Test tail and back-up lights.
- Test winch to make sure it's operating properly.
- Inspect trailer frame for rust—sand and paint as needed.

Miscellaneous

- Check expiration dates for flares and fire extinguishers.
- Check stove and remote tanks for loose fittings and leaking hoses.
- Inspect the bilge pump and float switch for proper working.
- Inspect dock and anchor lines for chafing.
- Update and replace old charts, water guides.

Source: www.amyachts.com/Newsletter/newfindex.htm

Vessel Safety Checklist

Yes No

Display of numbers*	_____	_____
Registration/documentation*	_____	_____
Life jackets (PFDs)*	_____	_____
Visual distress signals (VDS)*	_____	_____
Fire extinguishers*	_____	_____
Ventilation*	_____	_____
Backfire flame control*	_____	_____
Sound-producing devices*	_____	_____
Navigation lights*	_____	_____
Pollution placard*	_____	_____
MARPOL garbage placard*	_____	_____
Marine sanitation devices*	_____	_____
Presence of Navigation Rules*	_____	_____
Unique state and/or local requirements*	_____	_____
Overall vessel condition*	_____	_____
Deck free of hazards and a clean bilge*	_____	_____
Safe electrical and fuel systems*	_____	_____
Safe galley and heating systems*	_____	_____
Marine VHF radio	_____	_____
Dewatering device & backup	_____	_____
Mounting of fire extinguishers	_____	_____
Anchor & line for area	_____	_____
First-aid & P/W kits	_____	_____
Inland visual distress signals	_____	_____
Capacity certificate of compliance	_____	_____
Owner responsibility for accidents	_____	_____
Offshore operations	_____	_____
Nautical charts & navigation aids	_____	_____
Survival and first aid tips	_____	_____
Fueling and fuel management	_____	_____
Float plan filing	_____	_____
Weather & sea conditions	_____	_____
Insurance considerations	_____	_____
Boating checklist	_____	_____
Safe boating classes	_____	_____

* indicates required item
Source: USCG

Safety Tips for Boating With Your Pets

- Make sure your pet is always wearing a safety device, preferably one with a handle.
- Make sure your pet has identification or has been micro-chipped.
- Put the pet's bed or bedding in a quiet area.
- Carry a fresh water supply; keep water available at all times, and don't allow your pet to drink the local water.
- Carry enough pet food to cover the trip, plus a couple extra days' worth.
- Limit your pet's food intake prior to a cruise.
- Carry a supply of your pet's medications.
- Keep a long-handled crab or fishnet within grabbing distance to retrieve small pets that fall overboard.
- For cats, hang a strip of carpet overboard so they can grab it if they fall overboard.
- Exercise your dog by either swimming or having it run around the deck.
- On land, never allow your pet off the leash and never allow your pet to visit with a strange dog. Clean and properly dispose of any wastes.

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