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# Boater & Boat Equipment Checklist

## powerboats under 26 feet

Confident and safe boating relies upon the boat and each person aboard being properly equipped. This checklist will help ensure you have what you need, and it offers suggestions for better or upgraded equipment that will further enhance your enjoyment afloat.

|  | Required by         |       | Essential Gear | Should Have | Nice to Have | Basic   | Suggested Upgrade Level 1  | Suggested Upgrade Level 2  | Suggested Upgrade Level 3   |
|--|---------------------|-------|----------------|-------------|--------------|---|--|--|---|
|  | Federal             | State |                |             |              |   |  |  |   |
| <b>The Boater</b>                            |                     |       |                |             |              |   |  |  |   |
| <b>Life Jacket Adult (&gt; 16 years old)</b> | yes                 |       |                |             |              | <input type="checkbox"/> Inherently bouyant Inshore               | <input type="checkbox"/> Inherently bouyant Offshore   | <input type="checkbox"/> Inflatable Offshore Automatic   | <input type="checkbox"/> Inflatable Offshore Including harness                |
| <b>Inflatable Re-Arming Kit</b>              |                     |       |                | yes         |              | <input type="checkbox"/>  |  |  |   |
| <b>Life Jacket Child (&lt;16 years old)</b>  | yes                 |       |                |             |              | <input type="checkbox"/> Inherently bouyant Inshore - proper size | <input type="checkbox"/> Inherently bouyant Offshore - proper size   |  |   |
| <b>Life Jacket - waterskiing, etc</b>        |                     |       |                |             |              | <input type="checkbox"/> Inherently bouyant Impact rated          |  |  |   |
| <b>Boat shoes</b>                            |                     |       |                | yes         |              | <input type="checkbox"/> Basic                                    |  |  |   |
| <b>Whistle (for life jacket)</b>             |                     |       |                | yes         |              | <input type="checkbox"/>  |  |  |   |
| <b>Light (for life jacket)</b>               |                     |       |                | yes         |              | <input type="checkbox"/> Waterproof flashlight                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Waterproof strobe   |  |   |
| <b>Handheld VHF</b>                          |                     |       |                |             | yes          | <input type="checkbox"/> Basic handheld VHF                       | <input type="checkbox"/> DSC Handheld VHF with GPS   |  |   |
| <b>Personal Locator Beacon</b>               |                     |       |                |             | yes          | <input type="checkbox"/>  |  |  |   |
| <b>Protective clothing</b>                   |                     |       | yes            |             |              | <input type="checkbox"/>  |  |  |   |
| <b>Sunglasses</b>                            |                     |       |                | yes         |              | <input type="checkbox"/>  |  |  |   |
|  | Required by         |       | Essential Gear | Should Have | Nice to Have | Basic   | Suggested Upgrade Level 1  | Suggested Upgrade Level 2  | Suggested Upgrade Level 3   |
|  | Federal             | State |                |             |              |   |  |  |   |
| <b>The Boat</b>                              |                     |       |                |             |              |   |  |  |   |
| <b>LIFE JACKETS</b>                          | 1 per person aboard |       |                |             |              | <input type="checkbox"/> Inherently Bouyant Type II               | <input type="checkbox"/> Inherently Bouyant Type III   | <input type="checkbox"/> Inflatable life jacket manual   | <input type="checkbox"/> Inflatable automatic including harness               |
| <b>Sound Producing Device</b>                | yes                 |       |                |             |              | <input type="checkbox"/> Whistle                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Handheld air horn   | <input type="checkbox"/> Electric horn   |   |
| <b>Visual Distress Signals</b>               | yes                 |       |                |             |              | <input type="checkbox"/> (3) day/night handheld flares            | <input type="checkbox"/> Kit including: (3) handheld day/night flares + (3) meteor flares + (1) orange smoke | <input type="checkbox"/> SOLAS flares or Kit plus parachute flares signal mirror day distress flag |   |
| <b>Throwable Flotation</b>                   | yes                 |       |                |             |              | <input type="checkbox"/> Cushion +30 ft of line                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Life ring or horseshoe + 30ft of line   | <input type="checkbox"/> Lifesling®  |   |
| <b>Fire Extinguishers</b>                    | yes                 |       |                |             |              | <input type="checkbox"/> (1) Type B-I                             | <input type="checkbox"/> (2+) Type BC-I (1+) Type BC-II  | <input type="checkbox"/> (2+) Type BC-II   | <input type="checkbox"/> (2+) Type BC-II + engine compartment fire suppressor |



prepared by the National Safe Boating Council



With a little more care in your equipment selection, you can make your boating experience even safer.



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|                                | Required by |       | Essential Gear | Should Have | Nice to Have | Basic   | Suggested Upgrade Level 1  | Suggested Upgrade Level 2   | Suggested Upgrade Level 3   |
|--------------------------------|-------------|-------|----------------|-------------|--------------|---|--|---|---|
|                                | Federal     | State |                |             |              |   |  |   |   |
| <b>The Boat (continued)</b>    |             |       |                |             |              |   |  |   |   |
| <b>Anchor and Line</b>         |             | some  |                |             |              | <input type="checkbox"/> Danforth type (14lb) + anchor line | <input type="checkbox"/> Danforth type (16lb) + combination chain/line   | <input type="checkbox"/> Danforth type (25lb) all chain rode + Fortress Anchor combo chain/line | <input type="checkbox"/> Delta Anchor all chain rode + Fortress Anchor combo chain/line |
| <b>VHF Radio</b>               |             |       |                | yes         |              | <input type="checkbox"/> Handheld                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Fixed VHF incl DSC                              | <input type="checkbox"/> Fixed VHF/DSC + Handheld   | <input type="checkbox"/> VHF/GPS combo  |
| <b>Paddle</b>                  |             | some  |                |             |              | <input type="checkbox"/> Wood paddle                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Folding paddle                                  |   |   |
| <b>Bailer or Pump</b>          |             | some  |                |             |              | <input type="checkbox"/> Hand bailer                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Electric bilge pump                             | <input type="checkbox"/> Multiple electric bilge pumps  |   |
| <b>Dock Lines</b>              |             |       | yes            |             |              | <input type="checkbox"/> (4) Basic laid line                | <input type="checkbox"/> (4+) Braided Lines                              | <input type="checkbox"/> (6-8) Braided Lines  |   |
| <b>Boat Fenders</b>            |             |       |                | yes         |              | <input type="checkbox"/>                                    |  |   |   |
| <b>Compass</b>                 |             |       | yes            |             |              | <input type="checkbox"/> Handheld                           | <input type="checkbox"/> 3" Fixed front-reading                          | <input type="checkbox"/> 4" Fixed flat card   | <input type="checkbox"/> 4+" Fixed flat card  |
| <b>GPS</b>                     |             |       |                | yes         |              | <input type="checkbox"/> Handheld                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Fixed 3-4" Chartplotter                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Fixed 5-7" Chartplotter  | <input type="checkbox"/> Fixed 10+" Chartplotter + External GPS                         |
| <b>Charts</b>                  |             |       |                | yes         |              | <input type="checkbox"/> Chartbook                          | <input type="checkbox"/> NOAA Charts                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Charts on Demand   |   |
| <b>Navigation Rules</b>        |             |       |                | yes         |              | <input type="checkbox"/> USCG book                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Wing One-Minute Guide                           |   |   |
| <b>Boat Hook</b>               |             |       |                | yes         |              | <input type="checkbox"/>                                    |  |   |   |
| <b>First Aid Kit</b>           |             |       |                | yes         |              | <input type="checkbox"/> Basic                              | <input type="checkbox"/> Local Cruising                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Distance Cruising  | <input type="checkbox"/> Offshore   |
| <b>Boarding Ladder</b>         |             | some  |                | yes         |              | <input type="checkbox"/> Basic                              |  |   |   |
| <b>Spare Parts</b>             |             |       |                |             |              |   |  |   |   |
| <b>Engine</b>                  |             |       |                | yes         |              | <input type="checkbox"/>                                    |  |   |   |
| <b>Propeller</b>               |             |       |                | yes         |              | <input type="checkbox"/>                                    |  |   |   |
| <b>Batteries (VHF, GPS)</b>    |             |       |                | yes         |              | <input type="checkbox"/>                                    |  |   |   |
| <b>Depth Sounder</b>           |             |       |                |             | yes          | <input type="checkbox"/> sounder                            | <input type="checkbox"/> chart sounder fishfinder                        |   |   |
| <b>Radar</b>                   |             |       |                |             | yes          | <input type="checkbox"/> 2kw, 18" radome                    | <input type="checkbox"/> 2kw, 24" radome                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4kw, 24" radome  | <input type="checkbox"/> 4kw, 4' open array   |
| <b>AIS</b>                     |             |       |                |             | yes          | <input type="checkbox"/> AIS Receiver                       | <input type="checkbox"/> AIS Receiver + Display                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Class B AIS  | <input type="checkbox"/> Class A AIS  |
| <b>EPIRB</b>                   |             |       |                |             | yes          | <input type="checkbox"/>                                    |  |   |   |
| <b>Water Ski or Dive Flags</b> |             | some* |                | yes*        |              | <input type="checkbox"/>                                    | * Deploy flags to indicate a diver location, or waterskiing              |   |   |
| <b>Search Light</b>            |             |       |                | yes*        |              | <input type="checkbox"/>                                    | * Essential for night boating  |   |   |
| <b>Float Plans</b>             |             |       |                | yes*        |              | <input type="checkbox"/>                                    | * Forms are available from U.S. Power Squadrons or Coast Guard Auxiliary |   |   |

