

Boat Pre Departure Checklist: Recreational Safety Walk

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Trip, boat, and skipper

DATE	TIME
BOAT NAME	REGISTRATION / DOCUMENTATION NO.
HULL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (HIN)	LENGTH (FEET)
BOAT TYPE	SKIPPER
PERSONS ON BOARD	DEPARTURE (DOCK, RAMP, OR LAUNCH)
WATERS	TRIP PLAN / DESTINATION
EXPECTED RETURN	SHORE CONTACT HOLDING THE FLOAT PLAN

Required safety gear

Item	OK	Defect	N/A	Notes
Wearable life jackets (count and size)	☐	☐	☐	
Life jacket condition and stowage	☐	☐	☐	
Child life jacket wear underway	☐	☐	☐	
Throwable PFD	☐	☐	☐	
Fire extinguisher(s)	☐	☐	☐	
Visual distress signals	☐	☐	☐	
Sound-producing device	☐	☐	☐	
Navigation lights	☐	☐	☐	
Engine cut-off switch link	☐	☐	☐	
Certificate of number onboard	☐	☐	☐	
Gasoline ventilation / blower	☐	☐	☐	
Backfire flame control	☐	☐	☐	

Vessel systems

Item	OK	Defect	N/A	Notes
Drain plugs installed	☐	☐	☐	
Fuel quantity and reserve	☐	☐	☐	

Fuel system, caps, and leaks	☐	☐	☐	_____
Portable fuel tanks (if carried)	☐	☐	☐	_____
Battery and electrical	☐	☐	☐	_____
Bilge water and pump	☐	☐	☐	_____
Through-hulls and seacocks	☐	☐	☐	_____
Steering, throttle, and shift	☐	☐	☐	_____
Hull, fittings, and obvious damage	☐	☐	☐	_____
Load vs capacity plate	☐	☐	☐	_____

Engine and propulsion start

Item	OK	Defect	N/A	Notes
People clear of the propeller	☐	☐	☐	_____
Blower and sniff test	☐	☐	☐	_____
Engine start	☐	☐	☐	_____
Cooling water / telltale	☐	☐	☐	_____
Gauges and warnings	☐	☐	☐	_____
Shift and throttle at idle	☐	☐	☐	_____
Cut-off switch function	☐	☐	☐	_____
Exhaust and unusual noise	☐	☐	☐	_____

Weather, plan, and passengers

Item	OK	Defect	N/A	Notes
Marine forecast checked	☐	☐	☐	_____
Thunderstorm and severe weather decision	☐	☐	☐	_____
Float plan left ashore	☐	☐	☐	_____
Passenger briefing	☐	☐	☐	_____
Persons on board vs jackets and capacity	☐	☐	☐	_____
Communications	☐	☐	☐	_____
Charts, local knowledge, return route	☐	☐	☐	_____
Lookout assigned	☐	☐	☐	_____

Defects and sign-off

DEFECTS FOUND

ACTION TAKEN

☐ Boat is in safe condition for this recreational trip

SKIPPER SIGNATURE

TIME SIGNED

OTHER COMMENTS

Reference only. Verify against the vehicle OEM procedure and applicable regulations.