

BOATING CHECKLIST



**KNOW, KNOW,
KNOW YOUR BOAT.**

**KNOW THE RISKS, KNOW YOUR EQUIPMENT
KNOW YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES**

Before you leave

- Plan your trip and choose suitable anchorage locations – download a boating map from www.msq.qld.gov.au/boatingmaps.
- Have an emergency plan in case of bad weather or a marine incident.
- Work out tidal predictions – download a tide guide from www.msq.qld.gov.au/Tides/Tide-tables.
- Get the latest weather observations, predictions and bar crossing information.
- Estimate your travel times and calculate how much water and fuel you will need plus reserve.
- Check your boat – check for petrol or LPG odours, fix any faults, inspect the bilge, check the engine and make sure batteries are fully charged.
- Load and check you have all the right safety equipment, that it is in good condition and in date (www.msq.qld.gov.au/Safety/Safety-equipment-recreational-ships).
- Check your tool kit, repair/replacement spares and first aid supplies.
- Check your trailer – ensure the boat is properly secured to the trailer and the trailer to your car. Secure all loose items in the boat.
- Tell someone where you are going and when you expect to return.

Launching and getting underway

- Use the rigging lane at the boat ramp car park to check the bungs are screwed in firmly and check all loose items in the boat are still secure.
- Instruct all passengers on safety requirements, how to use safety equipment and where it is kept.
- Wait your turn to launch – be prepared, quick and courteous to all boat ramp users.
- Log on with the local volunteer marine rescue group (visit www.msq.qld.gov.au/Safety/Marine-radios for their details).
- Life jackets must be worn by all children under 12 years of age in an open boat that is under 4.8 m in length and underway. Check you have enough of the right life jackets for everyone on board (www.msq.qld.gov.au/Safety/Life-jackets for their details).
- Put on life jackets before crossing designated coastal bars.
- Listen to broadcasts of up-to-date weather forecasts.
- Choose the correct anchor for where you are going.
- Take care of the environment – don't pollute and make sure you keep rubbish on board until you return to shore (where you can dispose of it responsibly).

- Radio the volunteer marine rescue group with any change of location or observed dangers.
- Display the correct navigation lights (running and anchored) between sunset and sunrise and when visibility is restricted (www.msq.qld.gov.au/Safety/Navigation-lights).

When you return

- Log off with the local volunteer marine rescue group.
- Wait your turn to put your boat back onto the trailer at the boat ramp.
- Use the rigging lane at the boat ramp to secure your boat and gear.
- Isolate all battery power sources.
- Unscrew bungs to release water.

Home or marina maintenance

- Clean and flush the boat's motor.
- Inspect the boat for wear and tear and organise any repairs.
- Regular boat, trailer and equipment care will help ensure your boat is always ready to go.