

# DEPARTURE CHECKLIST

Take Time to Reflect on Safety. Safe Boating Begins with You.

## Float Plan\*

Name

Phone Number

Vessel Description

Destination Date & Time

Please use the back of this document for additional trip details.

Return Date & Time

\*Leave a copy of your float plan with your marina or a friend. Take a picture and send it by text or email so they can notify the Coast Guard if you do not return within a reasonable amount of time after your scheduled return date and time.

- Disconnect all utility lines such as power cords and water lines.
- Take in all dock lines and fenders (protective devices used between the boat and other objects) except for those you will use in leaving the dock.
- Ensure engine cut-off switch is operable (if applicable)
- Check fire extinguisher to ensure you have the correct number of extinguishers needed for the size of your boat. Review manufacture date to see if it complies with U.S. Coast Guard regulations.
- Instruct passengers and crew to keep hands, arms, etc., inside the boat.
- Sound proper whistle (horn) signals.
- After clearing the dock area, take in all lines and fenders and keep them clear of the propeller.
- Keep a lookout at all times for other boats, persons, and objects in the water.
- Keep a watch for low overhead wires.
- Proceed slowly whenever leaving or returning to a dock.
- Use just enough power to maintain control.



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The Coast Guard Foundation supports the men and women of the United States Coast Guard who protect America's shores and save lives at sea. Learn more about our mission and find out how you can help at [www.coastguardfoundation.org](http://www.coastguardfoundation.org).

This guide covers only basic boating elements and does not guarantee the safety of your vessel or its passengers. Please refer to the U.S. Coast Guard for further safety guidelines and requirements for recreational boats.

### Additional Resources:

**United States Coast Guard Boating Safety**  
<http://www.uscgboating.org>

**Fire Protection Guide**  
[www.federalregister.gov/documents/2021/10/22/2021-22578/fire-protection-for-recreational-vessels](http://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2021/10/22/2021-22578/fire-protection-for-recreational-vessels)

**United States Coast Guard Auxiliary**  
<http://www.cgaux.org>

**Information Source:**  
[http://bdept.cgaux.org/wp/?page\\_id=1032](http://bdept.cgaux.org/wp/?page_id=1032)