

Liveaboard Safety Checklist

Safety essentials for living on water



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This checklist outlines essential safety measures for liveaboards, covering life-saving equipment, vessel systems, and environmental considerations. Regularly review and maintain these items to ensure a safe and enjoyable liveaboard experience.

Required Life-Saving Equipment

- **Life Jackets (PFDs):**
 - *Ensure each person on board has a properly fitted, USCG-approved life jacket.*
- **Throwable Flotation Device:**
 - *A Type IV throwable device (e.g., ring buoy or buoyant cushion) should be readily accessible.*
- **Visual Distress Signals:**
 - *Carry day and night signals such as flares, a distress flag, and an electronic distress beacon (EPIRB or PLB).*
- **Sound Signaling Device:**
 - *A whistle, horn, or air horn is essential for signaling in low visibility or emergency situations.*
- **First Aid Kit:**
 - *A well-stocked first aid kit with supplies for treating common injuries and illnesses.*
- **Navigation Lights:**
 - *Ensure all navigation lights are functioning properly for safe navigation at night or in reduced visibility.*
- **Fire Extinguishers:**
 - *Have the appropriate type and number of fire extinguishers, regularly inspected and readily accessible.*



Vessel Systems & Hazards

- **Carbon Monoxide (CO) Detectors:**

- *Install and maintain CO detectors in all living spaces, testing them regularly.*
- **Smoke Detectors:**
 - *Install smoke detectors, particularly near sleeping areas, and test them frequently.*
- **Bilge Pumps:**
 - *Ensure bilge pumps are operational and capable of removing water effectively. Consider a high-water alarm.*
- **Electrical System:**
 - *Regularly inspect wiring, connections, and shore power cords for damage or corrosion. Use proper marine-grade equipment.*
- **Propane/Gas System:**
 - *If applicable, have the system professionally inspected for leaks. Install a gas detector and follow safe practices when using propane or gas.*
- **Fuel System:**
 - *Inspect fuel lines, tanks, and filters for leaks or damage. Ensure proper ventilation in the engine compartment.*
- **Emergency Shut-Offs:**
 - *Know the location and operation of emergency shut-offs for fuel, electricity, and water.*

Environmental & Dockside Safety

- **Dock Lines and Fenders:**
 - *Use appropriate dock lines and fenders to secure the boat safely and prevent damage.*
- **Boarding Safety:**
 - *Ensure a stable and secure means of boarding the boat, especially in varying tide conditions.*
- **Weather Awareness:**
 - *Monitor weather forecasts regularly and be prepared for changing conditions. Have a plan for severe weather.*
- **Pollution Prevention:**
 - *Follow regulations for waste disposal, sewage management, and prevention of oil spills.*
- **Emergency Contacts:**
 - *Keep a list of emergency contacts, including local marine authorities, harbormaster, and towing services.*
- **Security:**
 - *Secure valuables and take precautions to prevent theft. Consider a security system.*

- **Fire Plan:**

- *Develop and practice a fire plan, including evacuation routes and procedures.*

Important Notice and Safety Warning:

This checklist is for informational purposes only and does not constitute professional advice. Liveaboard boating involves inherent risks, and safety is the responsibility of the vessel operator and occupants. Consult with qualified marine professionals for comprehensive safety training and equipment recommendations. Selfcampers.com is not liable for any damages or injuries resulting from the use of this checklist.

Regularly review and update your safety practices to ensure a safe and enjoyable liveaboard experience.