

PRE-DEPARTURE BOAT CHECK (QUICK LIST)

A fast routine before heading out

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This checklist provides a quick routine to ensure your boat is ready for departure. It is not a substitute for comprehensive pre-departure checks but serves as a vital reminder before heading out. Always consult your boat's manual for detailed procedures.

Vital Fluid & Engine Checks

- **Engine Oil Level:**
Check dipstick; top up if necessary.
- **Coolant Level:**
Inspect coolant reservoir; add if needed.
- **Fuel Level:**
Ensure sufficient fuel for the planned trip with a reserve.
- **Battery Condition:**
Confirm battery charge and connections.
- **Bilge Pump Operation:**
Test automatic and manual functions.
- **Engine Start & Idle:**
Verify smooth start and stable idle; check exhaust for abnormalities.

Deck & Safety Readiness

- **Navigation Lights:**
Test running lights, anchor light, and any other signaling lights.
- **Steering System:**
Check for smooth operation and responsiveness.
- **Throttle & Shift Cables:**
Ensure proper function and full range of motion.
- **Anchor & Rode:**
Verify anchor is securely attached and rode is in good condition.
- **Safety Gear:**

Confirm the presence and accessibility of life jackets, flares, first aid kit, and VHF radio.

- **Bilge:**
Ensure the bilge is free of excessive water.

Float Plan & Crew Briefing

- **Float Plan:**
File a float plan with a responsible person detailing your route, destination, and expected return time.
- **Weather Forecast:**
Check the latest weather forecast and be aware of potential hazards.
- **Crew Briefing:**
Inform your crew about safety procedures, location of safety equipment, and emergency protocols.
- **Communication:**
Confirm VHF radio functionality and ensure all crew members know how to use it.

Important Notice and Safety Warning:

This checklist is a guideline only. The captain is ultimately responsible for the safety of the vessel and crew. Conduct a thorough inspection of all systems before each voyage. Selfcampers.com is not liable for any damages or injuries resulting from the use of this checklist.