

PRE-DEPARTURE CHECKLIST

Another way you can assure a good time while operating your vessel is to perform a pre-departure check.

- Check the weather forecast for the area and timeframe during which you will be boating.
 - Make sure the steering and throttle controls are operating properly.
 - Check that all lights are working properly.
 - Check for any fuel leaks from the tank, fuel lines, and carburetor.
 - Check the engine compartment for oil leaks.
 - Check hose connections for leaks or cracks, and make sure hose clamps are tight.
 - Drain all water from the engine compartment, and be sure the bilge plug is replaced and secure.
 - Make sure you have enough fuel or know where you can refuel.
 - Check to be sure you have a fully charged engine battery and fire extinguishers.
 - If so equipped, make sure the engine cut-off switch and wrist lanyard are in good order.
 - Make sure that you have the required number of PFDs and that they are in good condition.
 - Leave a float plan with a reliable friend or relative.
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