



Maritime &
Coastguard
Agency



Lifeboats

RYA

REDUCE THE RISK BOOST YOUR SKILLS



Boating Checklists

INTRODUCTION

As a boater, you'll know how quickly things can go wrong at sea. That's why it's so important to **stay prepared**.

Complacency and forgetfulness are two of the biggest risks you'll face. So, keep these **essential checklists** onboard and follow our **expert advice** for your best shot at trouble-free boating.



BEFORE YOU GO AFLOAT:



- Check the weather forecast and tide times.
- Plan your passage, and tell someone ashore where you're going and how long you'll be gone.
- Check your lifejackets and make sure they're fitted correctly.
- Check onboard equipment and safety equipment.
- Check your engine, fluid levels and bilge.
- Check the kill cord is working if fitted.
- Check your engine for cooling water through the exhaust or tell tale.
- Let the engine warm up.
- Check the forward and reverse gears.
- Make sure your crew are wearing appropriate clothing for the conditions and the forecast.
- Brief your crew and include safety considerations (see **crew briefing card**).

MY NOTES

WHILE YOU'RE UNDERWAY:



- Wear your lifejacket.
- Always keep a lookout.
- Make sure your speed is appropriate for the weather conditions and environment you're in.
- Check the gauges and fuel levels regularly.
- Monitor VHF channel 16 and local channels/the harbour master channel.
- Regularly check in with your crew.
- Check for lines over the side.
- Always operate at a safe speed.
- Monitor the weather conditions and pay attention to the forecast and visibility.
- Have a means of calling for help, like a handheld VHF or mobile phone in a waterproof pouch.

MY NOTES

EMERGENCY VHF RADIO CALLING PROCEDURE



- Switch to high power. Go to channel 16.
- Activate DSC alert if fitted.
- Press and hold transmit button and say:

MAYDAY, MAYDAY, MAYDAY

THIS IS ...

[Your name 3 times]

MAYDAY,

[Your name]

MY POSITION IS...

[Describe position and give GPS location if possible]

WE ARE...

[Describe the nature of the distress, the assistance required, number of people and craft followed by any further information]

SAY 'OVER' and wait for a response.

MY NOTES

For more tips and advice scan here
or visit: **RNLI.org/StayPrepared**



Maritime &
Coastguard
Agency



Lifeboats

RYA

Photos: RNLI, Andrew Parish

The Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI), a charity registered in England and Wales (209603), Scotland (SC037736), the Republic of Ireland (CHY 2678 and 20003326), the Bailiwick of Jersey (14), the Isle of Man (1308 and 006329F), the Bailiwick of Guernsey and Alderney, of West Quay Road, Poole, Dorset, BH15 1HZ