



# DON'T ROCK THE BOAT

## 10 Things to Check Before You Set Sail

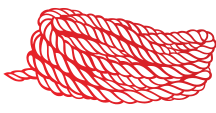
Don't let trouble sink your good time. Keep it safe, relaxing, and fun for everyone and avoid danger with proper precautions. According to Parachute, Canada has lost 10,511 boaters between 1991-2010. You can avoid becoming a statistic by observing some simple watercraft safety tips and suggestions.



**SAFETY:** Fire and water never mix, so be sure to install appropriately rated fire extinguishers—and check them regularly.



**TOOLS:** Don't get caught with your tool belt down—pack tools, spare parts, rope, and other supplies before you set sail.



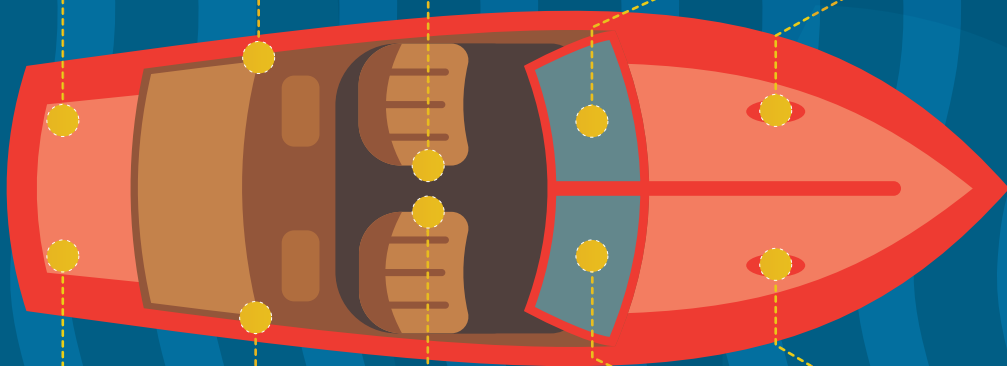
**FLOATATION:** The Red Cross states drowning makes up 95% of recreational boating fatalities. Make sure to always have correctly sized life preservers for every person onboard.



**EMERGENCY BEACON:** No better time to be noticed than now. Flares, GPS & emergency beacons help rescuers find you in an emergency.



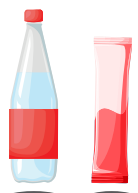
**FUEL:** Don't run out of gas before you run out of water. Always carry more fuel than you think you're going to need.



**PROPULSION:** If your sail, outboard, or stern drive fails; a set of oars or a trolling motor can help you get back to shore.



**COMMUNICATION:** Roger that! A two-way radio with weather alert helps you remain informed and stay in touch with those on shore and others on the water.



**SUPPLIES:** Hope for the best; prepare for the worst. Always carry a bailer, emergency food, and drinking water in case you are lost, get stranded, or take on water.



**CERTIFICATION:** Get smart or get hurt. Licensed, certified boaters are safer boaters—so get some training and keep all your certifications current.



**FIRST AID:** Accidents & injuries can happen at any time so make sure you have a fully equipped first aid kit.



**ALCOHOL & DRUGS:** Leave these ashore. When on the water, keep your reflexes, reaction time, and judgement sharp.



**EXCESSIVE SPEED:** Just like on the road, speeding will get you in trouble—and can cause an accident. Leave the killer wake alone.



**DELAYED MAINTENANCE:** Putting off routine maintenance or necessary repairs can easily throw a wrench into even the best boat trip.



**CHANGING WEATHER:** Bad weather can quickly ruin a great day—so stay informed and be prepared for changing conditions.



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