Boating Checklist

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# Tasks:

☐ **Before Departing**

☐ **Fuel**

*This is obvious, but make sure you have enough to get where you're going.*

☐ **Personal Flotation Devices**

*Also called safety jackets by some, these are a must before going anywhere.*

☐ **Fire Extinguishers.**

*The reason for this should be obvious, but be sure that they stay in working order!*

☐ **Tools**

*Make sure that tools that would be used to fix problems on board are on the boat, and some spare ones as well.*

☐ **Battery**

*Be sure that the battery is fully charged, cleaned and not corroded. Replace if needed.*

☐ **Distress Signals.**

*Do your distress signals (horns, lights, flares, etc) work properly? If not, fix or replace them!*

☐ **Forecast**

*Squalls can do damage to boats, so pay attention to the forecast.*

☐ **Equipment**

☐ **Anchors**

*This is common sense, though some people don't think about it; check for weak or broken links, and replace if needed.*

☐ **Masts**

*Sailboats need to be checked over thoroughly for cracks in the masts after bad storms, especially if the boat has tipped over.*

☐ **Sails**

*Check for rips or tears; quite often they can be patched, but sometimes the sail has to be replaced.*

☐ **Oars**

*Rowboats that do use these need to make sure that the oars don't have splits in them, and are still in usable shape.*

☐ **Spare Batteries**

*Always have at least one, preferable two spare batteries, and a charger on board, just in case.*

☐ **Leaks**

*Check for leaks in all systems of the boat. Replace necessary lines where needed.*

☐ **Grab rails**

*Ensure that the rails are tight in the deck, and have not come loose.*

☐ **Non-skid surfaces**

*Make sure that the non-skid surfaces are just that; there should not slippery spots that need to be fixed or replaced.*

☐ **What to Pack**

☐ **Food**

*At the very least, have a day's worth of food with you on the boat at all times.*

☐ **Water**

*Bottled water is a necessity as well; salt water will dehydrate you. Take a day's worth.*

☐ **Communication**

*Radios and cell phones are the best way to keep in contact with the mainland, especially if a storm hits.*

☐ **First Aid Kit**

*Make sure that this is fully stocked with everything, and keep the items in it fresh. Extra gauze and pressure bandages would be great.*

☐ **Lights**

*Flashlights for getting around in the dark onboard if the power goes out.*

☐ **Sunscreen**

*This is a given, unless you want to look like a lobster and turn bright red.*

☐ **Identification**

*Because you'll be on the water, put your identification in waterproof envelope or something similar, along with a health card.*

☐ **Directions**

*Your itinerary should be listed with the local authorities, and you should at the very minimum have a nautical map.*

☐ **Tips for Safety**

☐ **Maintenance**

*Always maintain your boat, and follow your different checklists to a tee.*

☐ **Itinerary**

*Turn one in with the local authorities so that if something happens, they know where to start looking.*

☐ **Practice drills**

*Use these to make sure you know how to safely deal with emergencies on your boat when needed.*

☐ **Awareness**

*Always stay aware of what's going on around you; the weather can change, something can break instantly, so pay attention.*