



Dockside Safety Checklist for Rented or Leased Boats and Personal Watercraft (PWC)

This form is a checklist to ensure that the renter and the authorized operator of a rental vessel is aware of the basic safety equipment requirements and both Federal and Rhode Island safety laws and regulations before operating. This form is not a complete and comprehensive list of all safety laws and regulations. It is highly recommended that a renter take a safe boating course approved by NASBLA before operating any vessel.

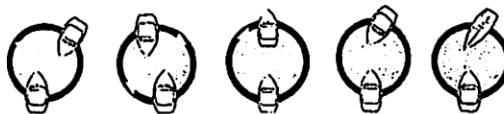
Note: Youth Under 16 are prohibited from operating a PWC without first completing an approved Boating Safety Education Course.



I acknowledge:

- This rental company staff has explained the local laws and regulations that apply to boating in this area.
- The use of alcohol, drugs, and some prescription medications will make it unsafe and illegal to operate.
- Allowing my passengers to use alcohol, drugs, or certain prescription medications will also place them in danger of injury and falls overboard.
- That my passengers and I each have a properly fitting U.S. Coast Guard-approved wearable life jacket and will ensure that those engaged in tow sports wear a properly fitting and adjusted U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jacket.
- That I will not operate the vessel in a reckless manner as to endanger the life, limb, or property of another.
- That I will pay close attention to restricted areas and "No Wake" Zones, and that I will obey the speed limits set by law. When operating in any inlet, pond or confined body of water, the speed limit during the day is 45 mph and 25 mph from sunset to sunrise or during periods of darkness or reduced visibility.

Initial:



I acknowledge:

- That I will maintain a proper lookout at all times.
- That if there is the risk of a collision, I must slow down, stop, and/or steer away.
- When I meet another boat head-on I should steer to the right (starboard).
- That when I overtake another boat I should pass on the left (port) side whenever possible and leave plenty of room, and yield (give way) to that boat.
- When I cross the path of another boat, I should yield (give way) to a boat on my right (starboard).
- That I should yield (give way) to all boats under sail.

Initial:



I acknowledge:

- That a responsible adult will supervise each child on board and that they will wear properly fitted, U.S. Coast Guard approved life jackets. Children under 13 yrs on vessels under 65 ft must wear life jackets when underway, unless below deck or in a closed cabin. Underway means not attached or tied to shore or a dock or at anchor.
- That this boat is powerful, and that it may be easy to lose control when going too fast, turning quickly, or encounter the wake of another boat;
- I will not operate at speeds that are unsafe for the conditions and realize that boats do not have brakes.
- That gas motors produce Carbon Monoxide, a colorless, odorless, lethal gas and that the rental company has explained zones around the vessel where lethal concentrations of this gas can occur.

Initial:



I acknowledge:

- That there is a "prop strike" awareness zone that extends all around my boat for at least 30 feet and as much as 50 feet.
- I must ensure all passengers are on board and accounted for before starting the motor.
- That I know how to use the navigation/anchor lights and will display them if operating at night or when visibility is poor.
- That this rental company's staff has informed me about local hazards such as shallow water submerged objects, etc. A list is attached.
- That five short blasts of a horn/whistle signal danger.
- That if engaged in towing a person on water skis, etc, there must be another person other than the operator that is over the age of 12 yrs to act as an observer. This includes PWCs.

Initial:



I acknowledge:

- That it is best for all passengers to remain seated and keep a firm grip on the boat.
- That overloading this boat is unsafe and against the law.
- That it is dangerous to sit with any body part hanging out of the boat or in the water. Propeller injuries are deadly and often fatal.
- That I will only anchor from the bow and where it is easy for other boats to see me (only in anchor-able areas).
- That falls into cold water can lead to cold-water shock and hypothermia and can be fatal even to good swimmers.

Initial: _____

Personal Watercraft: Required for ALL PWC Renters

- _____ Anyone riding a PWC must wear an appropriate, U.S. Coast Guard approved life jacket at all times.
- _____ PWCs can only operate from sunrise to sunset.
- _____ PWCs must operate at headway speed when within 200 feet of swimmers, divers, shore or moored vessels. Headway speed to mean the slowest speed at which a PWC can be operated and maintain steerage.
- _____ Anyone operating a PWC must have the lanyard cut-off switch attached to his/her person, clothing, or lifejacket.
- _____ PWCs when launched or returning from shore, must proceed directly to the area of allowed operation as near perpendicular to the shore as possible and at headway speed.
- _____ I understand that stopping the engine will not stop the forward motion of the PWC, and that on most PWC's, steering control is lost when the throttle is released or when the engine is turned off.
- _____ Items such as long hair, loose clothing, or life jacket straps can become entangled in moving parts resulting in severe injury or drowning.
- _____ If I capsize in open water, I understand I should swim to the rear of the PWC and turn it upright. I am aware that most PWC's have a decal at the bottom or rear of the vessel that indicates the direction to roll your PWC to return to an upright position.

Initial: _____

Rental Company _____

Rental Agent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Rental Agent Name (printed): _____

Renter Signature: _____ Date: _____

BOAT SAFE, BOAT SMART, BOAT RHODE ISLAND!

For more information on boating safety or a boating safety course:
www.dem.ri.gov OR CONTACT Rhode Island Environmental Police 401-222-3070