



Bareboat Necessities Checklist

mgrouch

Version 2025-06-15, Bareboat Checklist

<https://bareboat-necessities.github.io>

<https://github.com/bareboat-necessities/my-bareboat>

<https://github.com/bareboat-necessities/my-bareboat/issues>

<https://bareboat-necessities.wixsite.com/my-bareboat>

PDF version:

<https://bareboat-necessities.github.io/my-bareboat/bareboat-equipment-checklist.pdf>

This is the check list for a small sailboat (28-feet) and coastal cruising in warm weather.

Chapter 1. US Coast Guard Requirements

1. **Personal Flotation Devices.** One Type I, II, III, or V per person plus one Type IV throwable device. PFD's must be CG Approved, wearable by the intended user and readily accessible. The Type IV throwable device must be located such that it is immediately available
2. **Fire Extinguishers.** One B-II or two B-I. Non-expired.
3. **Visual Distress Signals on Coastal Waters.** Minimum of three day-use and three night-use or three day/night combination pyrotechnic devices. Non-pyrotechnic substitutes: 1 orange flag (day-use) and 1 electric S-O-S signal light (night-use). Flares checked for expiration.
4. **Sound Producing Devices.** Horn or whistle recommended to signal intentions or position. Under Rule 33 of the Navigation Rules, boats under 20m MUST have aboard a means of making an efficient sound.
5. **Navigation Lights.** Working sidelights, stern light, masthead light, running light.
6. **Pollution Regulations.** 5" X 8" Oil Discharge placard and 4" X 9" MARPOL Trash placards.
7. **For Gasoline Engines: Ventilation, Backflame Control.** Backfire Flame Arrestors, CG regulated ventilation.
8. **Marine Sanitation Devices.** Vessels with installed head facilities must have an operable CG-Certified Type I, II, or III Marine Sanitation Device (MSD). Any "Y" value for discharge overboard must be located in such a manner or affixed to prevent accidental discharge of untreated waste into water.
9. **Navigation Rules.** Boaters should be familiar with the "Rules of the Road". It's recommended to have navigation rules book on-board.
10. **Float plan forms.**

Chapter 2. Legal / Paperwork

1. IDs, driver licenses and copies stored in dry places (in separate places)
2. Vessel current registration
3. Vessel insured for the area of sailing, liability coverage, insurance ID
4. Towing services subscription (Ex: SeaTow, BoatUS)
5. Medical insurance IDs for the crew
6. Vaccination records, vaccinations for the travel area
7. Proof of onward travel if travelling internationally
8. For VHF with DSC vessel MMSI must be properly registered
9. EPIRB properly registered
10. Passports and copies if sailing internationally
11. Sailor resumes, logs, boating certifications, memberships, and licenses
12. SSB operator license
13. Some areas require VHF operator license
14. Credit cards (stored in separate places)
15. Boating safety certificate
16. US Coast Guard Courtesy Vessel Safety Check (recommended)
17. CPR licenses
18. Scuba licenses
19. Ship's Log / Maintenance Log
20. Float plan forms <https://newcontent.westmarine.com/content/documents/pdfs/WestAdvisor/USCG-Float-Plan.pdf>
21. Emergency contacts
22. Parameters of the boat printed on a separate paper:
 - Make, Model, Year, Call Sign, MMSI, Name, Home Port, Hull ID
 - Length, Draft, Beam, Bridge Clearance, Displacement, Keel Weight, Mast / Boom Lengths
 - Tanks Capacity (Water / Fuel / Holding Tank)
 - Engine Make, Model, Year, Oil Type, Oil Capacity
 - Propeller Shaft Size, Blades Type, Transmission Parameters
 - Sails Parameters, Area
 - Rig Maker, Winches Models, Anchor Types
 - Bilge Pump Throughput Capacity

- Dinghy Hull #

23. Dinghy registration if it has an outboard motor
24. Student ID cards
25. Paper charts for the sailing area (updated)
26. Tide / current charts (up-to-date)
27. Navigation rules book
28. Sail trim quick ref card
29. Navigation rules quick ref card
30. Quick ref card for weather forecasting
31. Sailboat electric book
32. Cards that can give you discounts
33. Chart No. 1
34. Nautical almanac
35. Coast pilot book
36. The Annapolis Book of Seamanship
37. Knots quick ref

Chapter 3. Safety

3.1. Good

1. All US Coast Guard safety requirements, PFDs, fire safety, distress signaling, navigation signals (See Chapter 1)
2. Hull (inspected properly)
3. Seacocks / thru hulls checked, hoses checked, hoses double clamped
4. Compliance with ABYC standards
5. Deck leaks caulked
6. No deck hazards
7. Stuffing box checked for leaks
8. At least two boat batteries (marine grade)
9. Reliably working inboard diesel engine
10. Reliably working steering system
11. Solar panel and solar charger
12. Rigging checked / inspected, tensioned properly
13. Battery charger from shore power
14. Shore power chord
15. Fenders
16. Dock Lines
17. Fuses in proper places
18. Spare fuses
19. Spare bulbs for each navigation light
20. Proper grounding wire of the boat
21. Proper marine wiring (wire grades for amps, proper insulation, good connectors, no loose connections generating heat, no hanging open wires, etc)
22. Sacrificial anodes installed in good shape
23. Emergency tiller
24. Built-in manual bilge pump and handle
25. Automatic bilge pump with proper vented loop and anti-siphon valve
26. Spare 12v bilge pump (easily deployable)
27. Boat hook (telescoping floating)

28. VHF with GPS and DSC (registered with MMSI for the vessel)
29. GPS Chartplotter, NMEA sensors connected
30. Binnacle mounted compass + handheld compass
31. Paper charts of the sailing area, dividers, protractor, etc
32. Radar reflector
33. Tide/current tables
34. Anchoring day shape ball
35. Two anchors with rode and length marking (mount for securing anchor outside of locker or anchor roller)
36. Coastal medical emergency kit
37. Sunscreen (pick the brand which doesn't stain boat gel coat)
38. Bimini
39. Marine binoculars (floating)
40. Flashlights / spare batteries
41. Wood plugs strategically placed in compartments with seacocks, know where all seacocks located, know where hammer is
42. Hammer
43. Signalling mirror
44. Boom stop with proper rope (Ex: Capt Dan's boom brake)
45. Dinghy with oars, PFDs for the dinghy, dinghy bailer / scoop, dinghy foot pump, dock line / painter, floating flashlight. Make sure the dinghy doesn't obstruct the stern light
46. Dinghy davits (dinghy rings - in my case)
47. Fire blankets
48. Covid-19 masks
49. Lightning strike detector
50. Sailing gloves
51. Sunglasses with lanyard
52. Sunhat with lanyard
53. Rain ponchos
54. Two winch handles
55. EPIRB (properly registered, know activation procedure)
56. AIS integrated with chartplotter
57. Jacklines + tether

58. Portable water tanks
59. Depth sounder
60. Funnel, fuel strainer
61. Spare engine oil (know how to check oil level)
62. 4G/LTE internet router with on-board Wi-Fi and SIM card for the sailing area
63. Anemometer / wind speed, direction sensors
64. Barometer
65. Boom tent
66. Swim ladder
67. Self-tailing winches
68. Heaving line with a float
69. Walkie-talkie for a dinghy-to-boat communication, anchoring communication
70. Dinghy bailer
71. Lifelines
72. Handrails
73. Loose nuts / bolts tightened
74. Sharp rigging elements covered with rigging tape
75. Spare halyards (installed and ready)
76. Dry comfortable bunk with a fan and ways to secure yourself from falling
77. Engine key with a float
78. Companion way key with a float
79. Spare foldable swim ladder (my Dingy Rings block the swim ladder when the dinghy is mounted)
80. Couple nylon rail mountable cleats
81. Child PFDs
82. Spreader halyard for signals and flags

3.2. Better

1. Search light
2. Sextant
3. Bow thrusters, joystick for control
4. Water maker
5. Rain water catcher

6. Radar
7. Means to periodically report your location via internet
8. Autopilot
9. Windlass, windlass battery, anchor roller
10. Anchor chain, anchor bridle/snubber
11. Whisker pole
12. Bilge alarm
13. MOB retrieval and recovery gear (Ex: MobMat)
14. Marine ventilation plug (to close ventilation in rough weather)
15. Lee cloth
16. Storm shutters
17. Carbon monoxide alarm
18. Smoke detector
19. Various gas alarm sensors
20. Means to set up anchor alarm
21. Lifeline netting
22. Lightning strike arrester for the antenna
23. Lazy jacks
24. SSB radio
25. Satellite phone (Ex: Iridium Go)
26. Liferaft + ditch bag
27. Sonar / fish Finder
28. Inmarsat Fleet receiver
29. NavTex receiver
30. Means to receive weather fax
31. Weather routing software
32. PACTOR modem for messaging offshore
33. Sea anchor, slowing drogue
34. Dodger
35. Wind generator
36. Self-steering gear, wind vane
37. Spare rudder / spare steering

38. Gasoline electric generator
39. Means to climb the mast (bosun chair, steps, etc)
40. Anchoring gloves
41. Clinometer
42. Spreader deck lights
43. Diver-down flag and buoy
44. Dinghy outboard
45. Pushpit outboard mount for dinghy outboard motor
46. Android tablet with spare GPS navigation software and charts
47. Bilge air blower
48. Color night vision camera

3.3. Crew Drills / Instructions

1. Sailboat parts / marine lingo
2. MOB drills with the crew
3. Captain overboard drills and instruction
4. Boom safety instruction, moving around the boat instructions
5. Marine head usage instruction
6. Environment protection instruction
7. Fire safety
8. Use of life jackets, PFDs
9. Docking, anchoring, mooring, boarding, dinghy use, rafting up
10. VHF, DSC, Mayday, EPIRB
11. Distress signals, bilge pump operation
12. Engine start/stop/check
13. Tacking, gybing, reefing, heaving-to, hoisting sails, steering, use of swim ladder
14. Night sailing, docking
15. Abandon ship, rig loss, fire, flooding, steering malfunction, accidental gybe, injured crew member, storm / squall procedures, grounding

Chapter 4. On-Board Living

1. Comfortable head, convenient to clean and flush
2. Comfortable dry bunk
3. Convenient dish washing set up
4. Convenient hand wash set up
5. Energy saving lights (all)
6. Solar cockpit lights
7. Companionway rain cover (clear UV treated marine vinyl)
8. 12-volt vacuum
9. Fans in sleeping areas
10. Waterproof bags
11. A/C (Ex: ZeroBreeze)
12. Cooler (cooler bags)
13. Sun Shower (with a foot pump, shower head, hose, adaptors)
14. Portable smartphone chargers
15. Boom tent, ties
16. Bimini
17. Dodger
18. Cockpit table
19. Cabin table
20. Swimsuits
21. Towels
22. Beach towels
23. Bedsheets
24. Pillows (comfortable)
25. Snorkeling mask, tube, fins, mesh bag
26. Raincoat/jacket/ponchos
27. Windproof jackets
28. Blue tooth speakers
29. Folding electric bicycle
30. Lights in each cabin

31. Tree hammock
32. Marine toilet paper
33. Mobile phone chargers / cables
34. Mesh bags
35. Cargo net
36. Pen / pencils / erasers
37. Trash bins for the galley and head
38. Rubber bands
39. Cup holders
40. Fender holders
41. Dust pan, brush
42. 12-volt pluggable 3-way adaptor (cigarette lighter type plug)
43. 12-volt extension chord (cigarette lighter type plug)
44. Envelopes, postal stamps
45. Flag pole
46. Flags
47. Daily-wear clothes
48. Small reading light
49. Binnacle cover
50. Sail cover
51. Head mounted flashlight



Store items in plastic transparent zip lock bags (Easy to see). Expect everything to get wet, corrode, leak, spill, tip over (and damage other items). Remove all packaging and stickers. Do not use carton boxes.

Chapter 5. Spare Parts

1. Spare bilge pump (12-volt powered, pluggable)
2. Spare batteries
3. Spare cabin lights
4. Spare alternator belt
5. Spare oil filters
6. Spare fuel filters
7. Spare impeller
8. Fuses (variety)
9. Some wires
10. Butt connectors / heat shrink tubing
11. Spare stainless nuts/bolts/screws/washers
12. Spare wood / marine starboard
13. Rigging parts, cotter pins
14. Spare swim ladder legs
15. Spare engine key
16. Spare companion way lock
17. Utility wire

Chapter 6. Tools

1. Basic mechanical toolkit (wrenches, pliers, screwdrivers, hex keys, etc)
2. Basic electrical toolkit (wire cutter, voltmeter, crimping tool, butt connectors, electrical tape, heat shrink tubing)
3. Basic carpenter toolkit, hacksaw
4. Basic plumbing toolkit
5. Basic sewing toolkit
6. Hose
7. Broom (floating)
8. Shore power chord
9. Crowbar tool
10. Voltmeter
11. Inspection mirror
12. Magnetic pick-up tool (telescoping or snake-type)
13. Wire crimping tool
14. Lighters, matches (windproof)
15. Bottle opener / corkscrew
16. Key to open tank caps
17. Inflatable dingy pump
18. Shower pump
19. Liquid transfer pump
20. Waterproof computer keyboard, mouse
21. Smartphone mount
22. Engine key attached to a float
23. Companion way lock with a float
24. Drill
25. Drill bits
26. Screwdriver bit set
27. Bar Clamp
28. Vise-grips
29. Rotary tool (Ex: Dremel)
30. Drain cleaning stick

- 31. Plunger
- 32. Marine engine oil changer / extractor (Marinas usually take the extracted oil for proper disposal)
- 33. Diesel fuel stabilizer
- 34. Laundry bags

Chapter 7. Supplies

1. Cargo straps 1-inch width (+ clam buckles, tri glide buckles)
2. Gear ties
3. Utility wire
4. USB/Ethernet cables
5. Phone charger cables
6. Various ropes, ties
7. Carabiners
8. Stainless kitchen clips
9. Oil absorbing sheets / pads
10. Zip lock bags
11. Acetone
12. Holding tank septic liquid
13. Matches / lighter
14. Scissors
15. Pens/pencils
16. Rigging knives (one per crew)
17. Rigging tape
18. Whipping twine
19. Stainless hose clamps
20. Spare LPG gas for stove (stored outside)
21. Oil Lantern, liquid for it, funnel (or candle lantern and candles for it)
22. Plastic wire ties
23. Garbage bags
24. Paper towels
25. Boat wash soap
26. Bag of rags
27. Duct tapes
28. Butyl tape
29. Electrical tape
30. Waterproof sacks

- 31. Dry lube
- 32. Air freshener
- 33. Odor neutralizing gel beads
- 34. Air deodorizer
- 35. Assorted bungee cords
- 36. Assorted shackles
- 37. Sail ties
- 38. Sail repair kit
- 39. Glue
- 40. Marine caulk
- 41. Caulking gun
- 42. Sand paper
- 43. Measuring tape
- 44. Bag of dehumidifying pellets
- 45. Bilge cleaner liquid
- 46. Boat pole holder

Chapter 8. Hygiene / Health

1. Toothpaste / brush / toothpicks / mouth wash / dental floss
2. Eye drops
3. Eye contact lenses / liquid / prescription eye glasses with neck chord
4. Prescription medicines (labeled with name, patient name and instructions)
5. Hand sanitizer
6. Sunglasses, neck chord
7. Sun hat with lanyard
8. Long sleeve collared UV protective shirts
9. Sunscreen (pick the brand which doesn't stain boat gel coat), lip balm
10. Hand soap
11. Q-tips
12. Supplements, vitamins
13. Skin moisturizer
14. Ibuprofen/Advil
15. Tylenol
16. Thermometer
17. Pepto bismol
18. Cotton balls
19. Tweezers
20. Wet wipes
21. Gatorade
22. Snakebite kit
23. Nail clipping toolkit
24. Bandages
25. First-aid manual (use Reeds Ocean Handbook)
26. Hydrogen peroxide
27. Anti-fungal creme
28. Antibiotic creme, neosporin
29. Skin rash, anti itch cream
30. Allergy medications

31. Shampoo
32. Body wash
33. Bath sponges
34. Deodorant
35. Shaving razor, shaving cream
36. Burn creme
37. Scissors
38. Bandanna
39. Ear plugs
40. Sea sickness medications, bracelet, ginger gum / candies, ear plugs
41. Sleep mask
42. Marine toilet paper
43. Zip lock bags
44. Water shoes (for use on a dinghy)
45. Covid-19 masks, gloves
46. Feminine hygiene products (instruct not to dispose into the head)
47. Nicotine patches

Chapter 9. Cooking / Galley

1. Stove (double-gimbale is better)
2. Solar Stove (Ex: SunGo Sport with a marine mount)
3. Forks
4. Knives with covers
5. Ceramic knives with covers
6. Spoons, teaspoons
7. Chopsticks
8. Plates / bowls
9. Cups / glasses
10. Cooking pans
11. Spatula
12. Stainless steel cooking utensil set
13. Kettle
14. Pressure cooker
15. Windshield for the stove
16. Multi grater
17. Thermos
18. Mugs
19. Double gimbaled mug holder (Ex: Osculati)
20. Matches, lighters
21. Gas for the stove
22. Utensils holder
23. Spice rack
24. Zip-lock bags
25. Coffee maker
26. Potatoes peeler
27. Wine glasses (plastic)
28. Brushes for dish washing
29. Frying pan
30. Toaster or camping toast making tool (Ex: By Primus)

31. Cutting board
32. Can opener
33. Egg holder (plastic reusable)
34. Kitchen timer
35. Kitchen liners
36. Napkins
37. Paper towels
38. Aluminum foil
39. Plastic wraps
40. Cocktail shaker
41. Bubble wrap
42. Large plastic cookie jar
43. Pot holders
44. Dish scrubbie
45. Food saver (12v vacuum food sealer)
46. Colander
47. Outside storage for cooking propane/butane gas



Cooking below deck possesses a risk. Store cooking propane/butane gas containers outside. The bilge should be well ventilated to allow heavier than air flammable gases to escape. Prefer cooking on an outside gas grill.



Even if the risk is low but consequences are catastrophic you still need to mitigate the risk.

Chapter 10. Food / Provisioning

1. Salt
2. Sugar
3. Black pepper
4. Spices (garlic powder, onion powder, bay leaves, basil, dill, etc)
5. Steak sauce
6. White vinegar
7. Gatorade
8. Trail mix bags
9. Vegetable oil
10. Olive oil
11. Rice
12. Pasta
13. Pasta sauce
14. Canned fruit snacks
15. Canned soups
16. Drinking water
17. Baking flour
18. Baking soda
19. Potatoes
20. Onions
21. Lemons, limes
22. Carrots
23. Potatoes
24. Tortilla chips / potatoes chips
25. Fruit snacks / dry fruits
26. Cookies, crackers
27. Cucumbers
28. Tomatoes
29. Lettuce
30. Bread

31. Apples
32. Coffee
33. Tea
34. Ketchup
35. Canned beans / dry beans
36. Mustard
37. Mayonnaise
38. Canned milk
39. Canned soups
40. Bouillon cubes, dry soup mix
41. Dry ramen noodles
42. Canned tomato paste
43. Seafood sauce
44. Avocados
45. Raisins
46. Cacao mix
47. Peanut butter
48. Protein bars, granola bars
49. Pretzel sticks
50. Peanut butter
51. Chips
52. Olives
53. Ginger ale
54. Tomato/apple/orange juice
55. Cheese
56. Thermos
57. BBQ / steak sauce
58. Pickles
59. Beer
60. White wine / sparkling wine
61. Cereal
62. Bacon

Chapter 11. Crew roles

11.1. Captain / Skipper

1. In-charge
2. Safety
3. Decision maker

11.2. Navigator

1. Position / weather tracking
2. Radio, radar, navigation electronics
3. Ship logs
4. Sail trim
5. Tides / currents

11.3. Engineer

1. Hull / integrity
2. Fire safety
3. Mechanical and electric equipment
4. Repairs / maintenance
5. Tools / spares
6. Plumbing / hull
7. Radio equipment

11.4. Cook

1. Food and galley
2. Provisioning

11.5. Boatswain

1. Rig / spars / mast
2. Running rigging
3. Anchors

4. Deck equipment / safety gear

11.6. Helmsman

1. Whoever is at the helm
2. Maintain course and speed
3. Watch out for vessels and obstructions
4. Monitor trim / rig / voltage / nav lights / weather conditions
5. Notify captain

11.7. Accountant / Bookkeeper

1. Expense tracking

11.8. Doctor

1. Healthcare

11.9. DJ / animator

1. Entertainment
2. Music

11.10. Photographer / video operator

1. Photo
2. Video

11.11. Fisherman

1. Anything fishing

11.12. Lookout

1. Observation of hazards
2. Landmarks
3. Person on a watch-out
4. Anchor watch

11.13. Pilot

1. Dinghy operation
2. Boat to shore movements (from anchoring / mooring)

Chapter 12. Entertainment

1. Blue tooth speakers, audio cable
2. Downloaded music
3. Computer (low power usage), movies (downloaded)
4. Some board games (chess, etc)
5. Card games
6. Small musical instruments (harmonica, ukulele, guitar, etc)
7. Guitar tuner
8. Books / magazines
9. Travel guides
10. Beach volley ball
11. Balderdash
12. Snorkel, mask, fins, mesh bag
13. GoPro camera, mounts
14. Waterproof smartphone, charging cables, 12v adapter, unlocked
15. Camera drone, charger, remote
16. Scuba gear, oxygen tanks
17. Fishing gear, fishing poles, fishing pole mounts, knives, lures, lines
18. Fishing spear / gun
19. Marine life identification book / phone app
20. Skateboard, roller blades, scooter, helmets
21. Small underwater sea scooter
22. GoPro camera + mounts
23. Folding electric bike
24. Domino
25. Chess
26. 3D Connect Four
27. Boogie board

Chapter 13. Applications for smartphones / tablets

1. iNavX
2. Navionics
3. OpenCPN
4. SEAiq
5. Marine Traffic
6. Ship Finder
7. PredictWind
8. NOAA Weather Radar
9. Tide Alert
10. US Coast Guard
11. SeaTow
12. Dockwa
13. Snag a Slip
14. ActiveCaptain
15. CruisersSailingForums
16. Boatsetter
17. GoSailing
18. NauticEd
19. Knot Guide
20. StarChart
21. WebMD