

Boat Equipment Explained

Everyone has a different idea of "fun". For some, it's throwing caution to the wind, flying along at top speed. On the flipside there are those who thrill at the prospect of spending an entire afternoon just floating along. Without a doubt, boating means fun to all types of people. With this fun, however, comes serious responsibility. Along with the boat, it's necessary to have the right boat equipment to keep the journey safe and enjoyable for everyone aboard.

Floatation Devices

By law, everyone on board must have a personal flotation device. Regardless of age, size or swimming ability, the driver and passengers are required to have them and wear them. Anything can go wrong at any time, and even the strongest swimmers can drown in dangerous waters. It's especially crucial for children to wear properly fitting and certified lifejackets. When it comes to safe and smart boating, these potential lifesavers are simply not optional.

Flares

Imagine cruising across an expanse of water with not another boat in sight. You can't even see the shore. It's paradise, until the motor hesitates, sputters and stops dead. No one on shore can see you, or hear you. This is a possible scenario that every boater should be prepared for, and it's the reason that flares and a flare gun be mandatory components of your boat equipment. Firing a flare will make you visible to those on shore, and will prompt others to offer assistance or call for help.

First Aid

The solitude of being far from shore can quickly turn to panic when accidents happen. Always pack a first aid kit with your boat equipment. Your kit should contain disinfectant, bandages, gauze, ointment and a tensor bandage. An ice pack can also come in handy, should you twist an ankle or suffer a bee sting. Being prepared for any situation is the key to ensuring a fun and safe journey for you, and your passengers.

Food and Water

While packing your boat for an hour, or an afternoon, don't forget to bring water and food. Even if you're planning a short trip, you never know if you'll decide to cruise a little longer. A stalled engine is also a possibility. Either way, you'll want to have snacks and fresh water available for everyone on your boat. There's nothing worse than having to return to shore for a snack or a drink, when you'd rather keep on boating.

Getting the whole family together for a fun-filled day on the water can turn a lazy afternoon into a memorable mini-vacation. Pack a picnic, load up your boat equipment, and set sail for a day of fun and relaxation.