

wave conditions can make this extremely difficult, if not impossible; you could unexpectedly fall into water and the vessel (with the PFD aboard) could be unreachable; and, cold water can severely impede your ability to don and fasten a PFD in the water.

Never underestimate the protection a flotation device can afford you. It is called *lifesaving equipment* for a reason.



Buoyant heaving lines

On most pleasure craft, buoyant heaving lines no less than 15 m (49'3") in length are necessary equipment.



Lifebuoys

When buying a lifebuoy look for a Transport Canada approval sticker. Store this piece of equipment where it can be easily accessed in an emergency. Lifebuoys must be at least 610 mm in diameter. Smaller lifebuoys and horseshoe-type devices are not approved.



Reboarding devices

Pleasure craft greater than 12 m (39'4") in length, and pleasure craft 6-12 m (19'8"-39'4") in length with freeboard exceeding 0.5 m (1'8") need a reboarding device. If your pleasure craft has transom ladders

or swim platform ladders it already meets this requirement.

Boat safety equipment

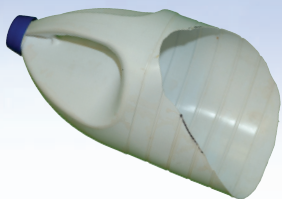
Manual propelling device

A manual propelling device can mean:

- a set of oars;
- a paddle; or,
- any other apparatus that can be used manually (by hand or foot) by a person to propel a vessel, including pumping the rudder on small open sailboats or a paddle wheel on a paddle boat.

A spare paddle or other propelling device is a good idea, but only one is necessary to meet the requirement.





Bailers and manual water pumps

Bailers must be at least 750 ml with the opening a minimum of 65 cm² (10 in²), and made of plastic or metal. If you have a manual pump, the pump and hose must be able to reach the bilge and discharge over the side of the boat.

A bailer or manual water pump is not required for multi-hull vessels that have subdivided multiple-sealed hull construction (common example: pontoon boat) or sailboats fitted with a recess-type cockpit that cannot contain a sufficient quantity of water to capsize the boat.

Make a bailer out of a four-litre rigid plastic bottle (useful for small open boats)

Rinse thoroughly and then:

1. Secure lid
2. Cut off bottom
3. Cut along side with handle



Anchors

There is more to dropping anchor than just that. If your boat's anchor and its cable are not of the appropriate weight and size, wind and water conditions can cause it to drag, leaving your boat to drift. This is especially dangerous if you are asleep or swimming nearby. Ensure your boat is well anchored and keep watch to detect signs of dragging.



Portable fire extinguishers

Different types of fires require different types of extinguishers. Currently, there are two classes of fire extinguishers required under the Small Vessel

Regulations: Class B for combustible liquids such as gas and oil and Class C for electrical fires.

The number before the letter on the extinguisher rates its relative firefighting effectiveness. For example, a 3B device will put out a larger fire than a 2B device. Although regulations specify class BC, choose an extinguisher with an ABC rating. The type of fire extinguishers you choose must be listed and labelled by Underwriters Laboratories of Canada (ULC), if made in Canada.

Fire extinguishers are generally approved for marine use by:

- Underwriters Laboratories (UL)
- Underwriters Laboratories Canada (ULC)
- United States Coast Guard (for marine use)

Refills of halon fire extinguishers are no longer permitted. For more information visit www.tc.gc.ca.



Check extinguishers frequently for correct operating pressure, and ensure you and your guests know how to use them. Maintenance, servicing and recharging must be performed by trained personnel as per manufacturer instructions.

For chemical-type devices, take them out of their bracket and shake them vigorously in the upside down position (about once a month) to prevent the extinguishing agent from caking and hardening at the bottom.

Reacting to a fire

If a small fire erupts, activate a fire extinguisher and direct it at the base of the flames. Sweep the discharge nozzle from side to side and continue doing this for a few seconds after the flames are completely extinguished. Otherwise, the fire may re-ignite and you may not have enough extinguishing agent left to put it out again.

If your boat is in motion when a fire starts, position it so the fire is downwind from you and stop the engine if it is safe to do so under the weather conditions. Make sure everyone is wearing a flotation device, use extinguishers to control the fire and, if safe to do so, shut-off the fuel source.

The Small Vessel Regulations do not address automatic extinguishing systems some pleasure craft may carry. Even if your pleasure craft has this type of system it must carry the portable extinguishers indicated in the Minimum Required Equipment section. More information on the care and maintenance of fire extinguishers is available from ULC or the manufacturer.



Distress equipment

Watertight flashlights

Almost every pleasure craft requires a watertight flashlight or flares. In the event of an electrical failure, a watertight flashlight may be your only means of signalling for help.



Distress flares

Use flares only in times of real distress. Before purchasing, make sure they are approved by Transport Canada. There are four types of approved pyrotechnics: A, B, C and D.

Aerial flares should be fired at an angle into the wind. With a high wind velocity, lower the angle to a maximum of 45 degrees. Pyrotechnics are valid only for four years from the date of manufacture, stamped on each flare. To dispose of your outdated flares, seek advice from your local fire department, law enforcement agency or Transport Canada Centre.

Store flares vertically in a cool, dry location (such as a watertight container) to help them retain their efficiency, but keep them accessible in case of an emergency.

Pleasure craft greater than 6 m (19'8") in length and pleasure craft up to 12 m (39'4") in length are exempt from carrying pyrotechnic distress signals if:

- Operating in a river, canal or lake in which it can at no time be more than one nautical mile (1.852 km) from shore
- Engaged in an official competition or in final preparation for an official competition and have no sleeping arrangements