



## 10 Safe Boating Tips

On average, 125 Canadians drown in boating incidents each year. More than 80 percent are men. More than 80 percent are not wearing life jackets. On the road, you wear your seat belt because you know you won't have time to put it on in an accident. On the water, think about your life jacket the same way. It won't work if you don't wear it.

1. Cold water is deadlier than you think. Prepare for the shock of cold water - always wear a life jacket.
2. Impaired boating is illegal. Leave the alcohol onshore.
3. Check the forecast before you go out. Return to shore immediately if bad weather approaches.
4. Operate powerboats responsibly – don't speed close to shore and slow down when the water is choppy.
5. Stay seated! You can easily fall out of a small powerboat, canoe or kayak.
6. Properly load your boat. An unbalanced or overloaded boat could take on water or capsize.
7. Be prepared. Ensure your vessel has the required safety gear on board, and sufficient fuel.
8. Carry a VHF radio or cell phone in case you need to call for help.
9. Always tell someone where you are going, when you will return and who to call if you are overdue.
10. Get trained. Boating is fun and easy if you know how.