

The U.S. Coast Guard says you must have USCG approved Personal Flotation Devices on your boat. The number and type depends on the length of your boat and the number of people on board.

Florida law required every child under the age of six to wear a PFD while aboard any vessel less than 26 feet when it is underway.

In addition, person engages in water skiing or aquaplaning activities must also wear a PFD.

All boats must have a wearable type PFD for each person on board or being towed. Each PFD must be in good condition and readily available, and the proper size for the intended wearer. In addition, boats 16 feet in length or longer must carry a Type IV throwable device.

Any person under the age of 14 is strictly prohibited from operating a personal watercraft. Any person under the age of 16 is strictly prohibited from renting or leasing a personal watercraft.

The following are required on your boat:

- Life jackets for everyone on board
- Boat cushion or throwable device
- Fire extinguisher if the boat is more than 26 feet
- Visual distress signal
- Bell or whistle
- Paddle or oar
- Anchor with anchor line

Not required, but smart to have:

- Compass
- First-aid kit
- VHF radio or cel phone
- Bilge pump
- Bug repellent
- Hat
- Sunscreen