

Pre-Launch Checklist

*****NOTE – Be sure to perform these steps away from the ramp! It is rude and selfish to tie up the ramp for anything but launching your boat.**

- Check to insure your drain plug is in
- Remove the tie-down straps from the boat
- Raise the engine and remove the transom saver if you have one
- Leave the engine slightly raised to avoid scraping the lower unit on the ramp
- Release the safety chain
- Take any fishing equipment, coolers, food, etc... that you're going to be using on your trip from your vehicle and place them into the boat
- *Be sure that you have a Personal Flotation Device on the boat for every person that you'll have aboard! It's the law and it's just the right thing to do*
- Check to insure your drain plug is in
- Turn on your batteries
- If you have an outboard engine that has a primer bulb, now is a good time to pump it up
- Walk to the ramp and assess the conditions. Is there heavy, slippery algae on the ramp? Is the water particularly high or low? This is especially important if you're launching at a new ramp to you.
- Walk back to the boat and check to ensure that your drain plug is in!
- Launch your boat
- Park your vehicle and trailer
- Climb aboard and enjoy your day on the water

I know I put "Check the drain plug" several times but it is the most commonly forgotten thing by both new boaters and veterans alike!