

WATERCRAFT RENTALS

PADDLING SAFETY CHECKLIST



The Oregon State Marine Board recommends this paddling safety checklist for customers renting paddlecraft from this rental agency. Check each box to confirm you understand each item the rental agent explained or demonstrated.

LIFE JACKETS

I understand children 12 and younger must wear a properly fitted, U.S. Coast Guard approved life jacket whenever the boat is underway, and it must be approved for the
_____ type of use.

I understand that life jackets need to be readily accessible at all times for all passengers. I also understand that all life jackets must be properly fitted to the person, U.S. Coast Guard approved
_____ and approved for the type of use.

EQUIPMENT

The required safety equipment for this type of paddlecraft is on board, in good working condition and easy to reach and I know how to use
_____ the equipment.

_____ I will keep a whistle attached to my life jacket.

I have some means of communication with me, such as a cell phone (in a waterproof bag) or
_____ a portable VHF radio.

_____ I will take care to evenly distribute weight of people, equipment and gear on board and to not overload the paddlecraft.

I will respect the maximum load for this paddlecraft, which is:
_____ _____ People _____ kg/lb People + Equipment

_____ I will carry and use an all-around white light to indicate my position to other boaters if paddling at night or in low light conditions.

BEFORE LEAVING

_____ The rental agency explained or demonstrated the unique handling characteristics of this paddlecraft.

_____ I am aware of the paddling conditions (weather, wind, swell, tides, currents, waves) expected over my trip.

BEFORE LEAVING

The rental agent reviewed a chart/map of the area I am paddling and made me aware of:

- Suggested routes for the rental period
- Local hazards
- Local restrictions, such as areas closed to boating
- Location and meaning of local waterway markers
- Shipping lanes and high-traffic areas
- Landing and takeout spots
- Roads and trails for walking out

ON THE WATER

_____ I will paddle in areas within my paddling ability.

_____ I will never paddle alone.

_____ I will stay out of the way of other boat traffic and be courteous and mindful of the stopping distance of other boats on the water.

_____ I understand the safest way to cross the path of a powerboat is to do so astern (behind the powerboat).

_____ I understand the best way to cross a channel is at a right angle (straight across) to the waterway in order to reduce my time in the crossing.

_____ I will only cross open water when conditions permit.

_____ I will keep constant watch for other boats, hazards to navigation, water and weather changes.

_____ I will not paddle, or allow others to paddle, this paddlecraft while under the influence of alcohol or other drugs. I know it is dangerous and illegal and punishable by a fine of up to \$6,250 and up to one year in jail.

_____ If I have a hard time with the conditions, I will return to shore.

IN AN EMERGENCY

- _____ I know how to get help in case of an emergency.
- _____ If my paddlecraft tips over, I know to stay calm, remain with my boat (if possible) and then paddle or swim it to shore if I am close to the shore, with the boat downstream from myself.
- _____ I know what to do if I become separated from my paddlecraft.
- _____ I am aware of the dangers of cold-water shock and hypothermia and know what to do if anyone falls into cold water.
- _____ I know that by wearing my lifejacket and paddling close to shore, I have a better chance of saving myself should I capsize.
- _____ I know what to do if dangerous weather occurs.

ACCIDENT REPORTING

- _____ I understand as the operator I MUST report any incident involving:
- Damage to a boat and other property totaling \$2,000 or more;
 - Injuries to any person requiring treatment beyond first aid;
 - Complete loss of any boat; or
 - Death or disappearance.
- _____ I understand any incident resulting in death or injury MUST be reported within 48 hours and incidents involving only damage must be reported within 10 days to the Oregon State Marine Board.

PADDLECRAFT SPECIFIC

- _____ I will plan and follow routes that are close to shore and use sheltered areas as much as possible.
- _____ I will not attempt a trip that is too long or too challenging for my physical condition and paddling ability.
- _____ I can safely enter and exit the paddlecraft and know the importance of staying low.
- _____ I know how to securely tie my paddlecraft while on shore or at dockside.
- _____ For kayaks, I know how to securely fasten the hatches before getting underway.
- _____ To prevent capsizing, if a wave/wake is heading in my direction while underway, I know to turn the bow of the paddlecraft into the wave/wake so that I don't take the wave/wake broadside.
- _____ For family and small group rentals, the rental agent:
- reviewed paddle and whistle signals to use on the water
 - assigned the most experienced paddlers the "lead" (front) and "sweep" (rear) positions, with less experienced paddlers in the middle.
- _____ I am wearing the appropriate clothing for my trip, in consideration of both water temperature and weather conditions.
- _____ I understand it is a good idea to bring extra clothes in a dry bag/plastic bag.

DO YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR WATERCRAFT AND ITS OPERATION?

The rental agency provided me with a safety briefing and explained any additional rules they expect me to follow. I agree to paddle this paddlecraft in accordance with all applicable boating laws and regulations in a safe and secure manner.

Boat Type and Description:

Departure (date & time):

Return (date & time):

Total People Onboard: Area of Operation/Route:

Emergency Contact:

Customer Name (print):

Customer Signature:

Signature of Rental Representative:

Contact Phone:

Cell Phone:

Date:

Date:
