



PERSONAL WATERCRAFT PRE-RIDE CHECKLIST

CHECK THROTTLE CONTROL

Check operation of throttle lever. Make sure it returns to the fully closed position when released.

SAFETY LANYARD

Check safety stop lanyard to insure engine will shut off when lanyard is removed.

FUEL

Make sure you have sufficient fuel

FUEL PRESSURE

Loosen filler cap to relieve any pressure, then tighten cap securely.

CHECK FOR FUEL LEAKS & VENTILATE ENGINE COMPARTMENT

Open engine cover for several minutes.

STEERING

Check to insure steering is functional. Insure that thrust nozzle moves in response to turning of steering handlebars.

CLEAN PUMP & DRAIN BILGE

Clear jet pump and drive shaft of any foreign substances.

CHECK FOR HULL DAMAGE

FIRE EXTINGUISHER

Make sure the extinguisher is fully charged and up to date.

CHECK HOSE CONNECTIONS

Make sure all connections, bolts, nuts, and fasteners are secure and tight.



State of Maryland

Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resources Police
305 Marine Academy Drive, Suite 100
Stevensville, MD 21666



For more information

410-643-8502 Toll Free 1-877-620-8367
www.dnr.maryland.gov

Ride responsibly!

Practice common sense
and courtesy!

Play it safe on all
waterways in Maryland
and across
the country!



Martin O'Malley, Governor
Joseph P. Gill, Secretary

MARYLAND



Personal Watercraft Regulations



Department of Natural Resources





Superintendent's Message

Even after more than a decade, personal watercraft are still the fastest growing form of boating in Maryland, as well as throughout the United States. Personal watercraft are comparatively inexpensive, easily transported, and fun to ride. Along with their positive attributes comes operator responsibility, so know Maryland's boating laws and regulations, know the capabilities of your personal watercraft and how to operate it safely, and know what it takes to be a responsible boater.

As Superintendent of the Maryland Natural Resources Police, I stress education, awareness, and enforcement, in that order. Knowledge and experience are essential for safety, so please take a few minutes to read and understand the information contained in this flier. Remember to boat safely and keep Maryland waters clean.

Colonel George F. Johnson, IV
Superintendent

Important Facts About PWC

Remember the 100 foot rule

Most PWC accidents are collisions. Stay at least 100 feet from everything.

PWC have no brakes (some exceptions apply)

Allow long distances for stopping

No Throttle - No Steerage

You must maintain some throttle to maneuver

Avoid tunnel vision

Don't just look forward, continually look to both sides and behind while riding.

Rules and Regulations

To improve and promote safe and responsible boating on the state's waterways, the Natural Resources Police enforce the PWC regulations explained in this brochure. It is important for you to read and understand these regulations before operating a PWC.

🛥️ Maryland requires the operator of a PWC to be a least 16 years of age. Also, anyone born on or after July 1, 1972 must carry a NASBLA approved certificate of boating safety education.

🛥️ In Maryland waters other than the Atlantic Ocean, PWC cannot operate at a speed greater than 6 knots within 100 feet of other boats, piers, pilings, bridge structures, shorelines, wharves, people in the water or other PWC.

🛥️ You may not operate a PWC in a negligent manner which includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Jumping or attempting to jump the wake of another vessel within 100 feet of that vessel;
- Riding backwards and/or standing on the seat of the craft while riding;
- Weaving through and recklessly operating in areas of congestion;
- Speeding in restricted areas such as marinas, minimum wake zones, environmentally sensitive areas; or
- Operating in a manner that endangers the life, limb or property of any person, including the operator. (i.e. splashing other PWC or swimmers, buzzing piers and other boaters, etc.)

🛥️ A person may not operate or give permission to operate a PWC in excess of idle speed on any waters of the State less than 18 inches in depth.

🛥️ PWC cannot operate between the hours of sunset and sunrise.

🛥️ When towing a water skier, you must have a three-person craft with a rear-facing observer who is at least twelve years of age.

🛥️ When operating a PWC in Maryland waters of the Atlantic Ocean, you must not operate or give permission to operate a PWC within 300 feet of surf fisherman or people in the water or, at a speed greater than 6 knots within 100 feet of vessels, wharves, jetties, shorelines or piers.

🛥️ An individual may not operate or give permission to operate a PWC registered in the State of Maryland unless a regulation sticker approved by the Department of Natural Resources is properly attached to the PWC.

🛥️ Boating under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol impairs judgment, motor skills and concentration. It is also a violation of state law.

Deep Creek Lake

PWC and Hover Crafts may not be operated on the lake between 11 am and 4 pm on the Saturday, Sunday and holiday of Memorial Day weekend, as well as the Saturdays, Sundays and holidays from July 1 through Labor Day. Please contact Deep Creek Lake Recreation Area at 301-387-4111 for more information.

Safety Equipment

Required by Maryland Law

LIFEJACKET

Each person onboard a PWC must wear a U.S. Coast Guard approved type I, II, III or V life jacket and it must be size-specific for the wearer.

KILL SWITCH LANYARD

A PWC must be equipped with a functioning self-circling device, or a lanyard-type engine cut-off switch that must be attached to the operator, the operator's clothing or the operator's life jacket.

SOUND PRODUCING DEVICE

A whistle or horn must be carried on board a PWC in order to make the sound signals required by the rules of the road.

FIRE EXTINGUISHER

All PWC must have an approved B-I fire extinguisher that is in working order.

OTHER MARYLAND REQUIREMENTS

A PWC must be registered with the Department of Natural Resources and must appropriately display the registration numbers and validation decals.

